9 OCTOBER 2015 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

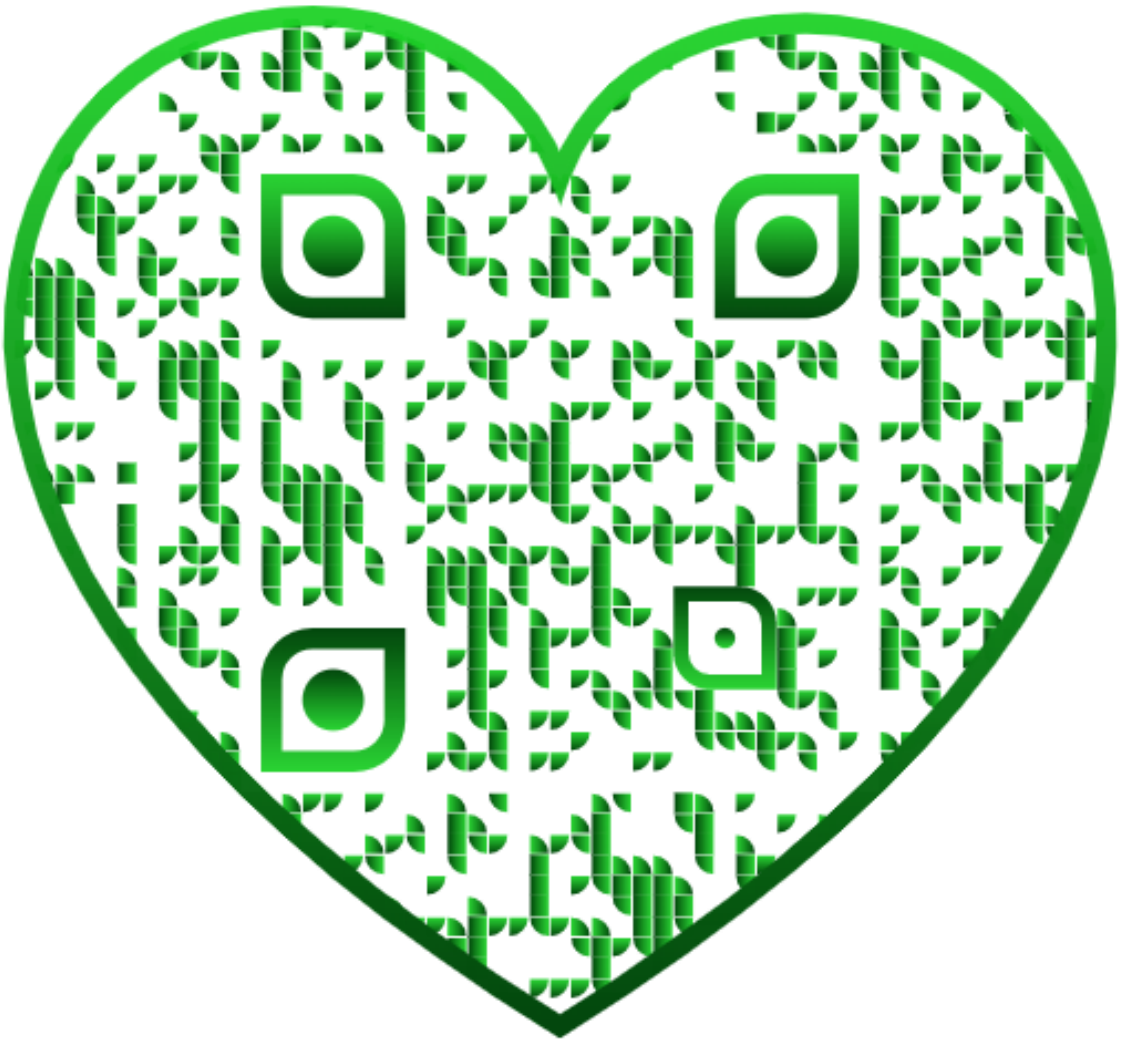
NME

Taylor Swift

Making world domination look easy since 1989

MUSIC
FILM
STYLE

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW & PHOTOS



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NME

Hello...

BECK, ST VINCENT, The Weeknd, Lorde, Haim, Wiz Khalifa, Steven Bloody Tyler. All brilliant artists, all guests of Taylor Swift on her massive 1989 Tour. The only surprise when the show rolled into Tennessee was that she wasn't joined on stage by the reanimated corpse of Elvis, such is her pulling power.

This week's cover story goes behind the curtain on the tour as *NME*'s junior Jeremy Paxman, Dan Stubbs, grills Taylor on fame, Kanye and having the p*ss taken out of her on YouTube. It's a massive exclusive and it's only in *NME*.

In other news, I've just got back from Austin, Texas, where The Strokes headlined Austin City Limits. After years of farting out their sets and growing more and more detached from their audience (and each other), they look like they mean it again. All we need now is a new album that gets close to the excellence of their debut, 'Is This It'. No pressure, lads...

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

COVER PHOTO: JORDAN HUGHES THIS PAGE: JENN FIVE

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RUDIMENTAL

WE THE GENERATION

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

COLLECTION CHRISTOPHEL, UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, TITAN BOOKS

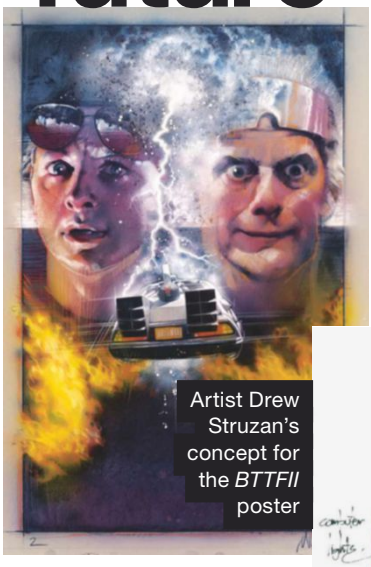
Book to the future

An action-packed new book celebrates the 30th anniversary of *Back To The Future*

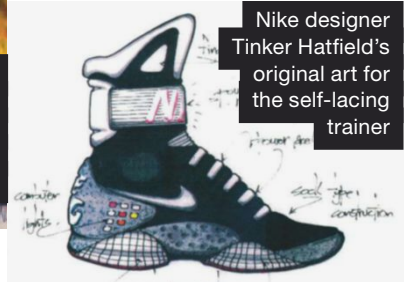
WHEN MARTY McFLY AND Doc Emmett Brown whizzed forward through time in *Back To The Future II*, their souped-up DeLorean took them to October 21, 2015. "Look around," says star Michael J Fox now. "Did the film get it right? Flying cars, not so much, but Marty's receding hairline looks painfully familiar."

A hefty new book about the trilogy marks not just this landmark but also the 30th anniversary of the first of the time-hopping flicks.

Packed full of never-before-seen images (see our exclusive pics, left and below), *Back To The Future: The Ultimate Visual History* includes storyboards, concept art and on-set snaps as well as interviews with the original cast. It's enough to send your flux capacitor fizzing into overdrive.



Artist Drew Struzan's concept for the *BTTFII* poster



Nike designer Tinker Hatfield's original art for the self-lacing trainer

***Back To The Future: The Ultimate Visual History* is out October 16 via Titan Books**

Time flies

***Back To The Future II*'s predictions for 2015**

HOVERBOARDS
Well, almost… Those weird mini Segway things that are all the rage right now? They're Marty McFly's fault.

TABLETS
Marty is asked to sign an e-petition to save Hill Valley's clock tower on a device that looks uncannily like an iPad.

VIDEO CALLS
Predicting FaceTime and Skype, the film sees the cast communicating through video screens.

Everything we know about *Trainspotting 2*

The follow-up to the classic 1996 film will start shooting in May next year

WITH ITS BLEAK HUMOUR, seminal soundtrack and edgy depiction of a gang of Edinburgh heroin addicts, *Trainspotting* marked a high point in British filmmaking. Two decades later, the film based on Irvine Welsh's novel of the same name is finally getting the sequel treatment. Here's how it's shaping up.

Danny Boyle will direct it

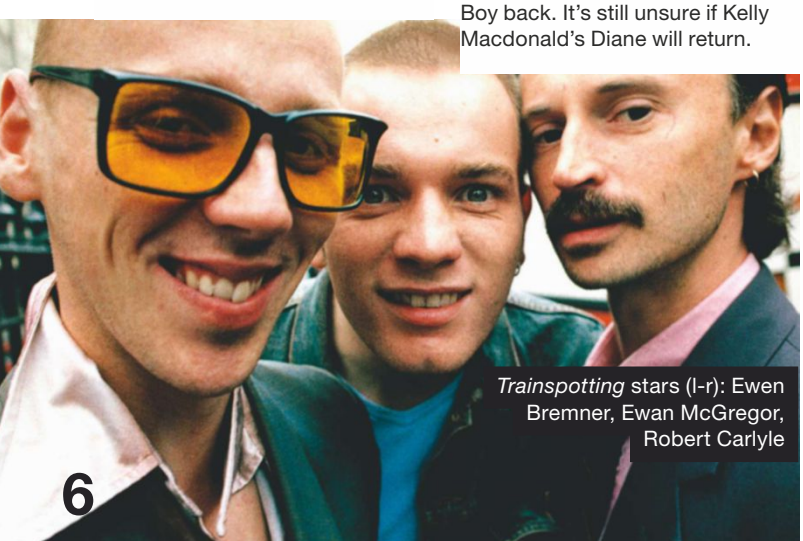
Just as he did the original.

The scriptwriter is back

John Hodges, who penned the Bafta-winning *Trainspotting*, has already rattled off the screenplay. Boyle has made a point of bigging it up as "terrific". No pressure, John.

The main cast members return

"All four lads are back," says Boyle. So we'll see Ewan McGregor as anti-hero Renton, Robert Carlyle reprising his role as alpha male Begbie, Ewen Bremner reviving simple, sweet Spud and Jonny Lee Miller bringing the debonair Sick Boy back. It's still unsure if Kelly Macdonald's Diane will return.



Trainspotting stars (l-r): Ewen Bremner, Ewan McGregor, Robert Carlyle

It's now or never

Boyle told *The Hollywood Reporter* that Carlyle and Miller would only have a short amount of time away from their respective TV shows, *Once Upon A Time* and *Elementary*. "They get this little window off," he said. "So either you wait for their contracts to run down or you do it in the window."

It's only loosely based on *Porno*

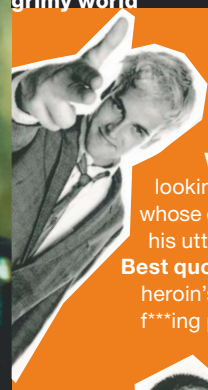
The project was first announced in 2013, when Boyle explained at SXSW Film Festival that it wouldn't be an overly faithful adaptation of Welsh's follow-up novel, *Porno*. This will be a relief to McGregor, who once told *The Independent* that the 2002 book failed to "move him" and was "exactly the same story".

The budget is bigger

Trainspotting cost around £1.5m to make, but the new film could come in closer to £13m, though Boyle wants to keep below that to minimise studio interference.

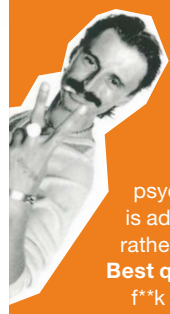
Trainspotters

Who's who in the film's grimy world



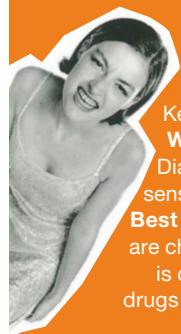
SICK BOY
Played by: Jonny Lee Miller
Who: Good-looking sociopath whose charm belies his utter amorality.
Best quote: "I mean, heroin's got a great f***ing personality."

MARK RENTON
Played by: Ewan McGregor
Who: The film's likeable but wildly damaged narrator, fond of shoplifting and, yep, heroin.
Best quote: "We would have injected vitamin C if only they'd made it illegal."



FRANCIS BEGBIE
Played by: Robert Carlyle
Who: Violent psychopath Begbie is addicted to booze rather than Class As.
Best quote: "How the f**k can it be armed robbery with a f***ing replica?"

SPUD
Played by: Ewen Bremner
Who: Bad luck seems to follow dim-witted Spud around.
Best quote: "I've got balls like watermelons."



DIANE
Played by: Kelly Macdonald
Who: Schoolgirl Diane is the most sensible character.
Best quote: "Times are changing, music is changing, even drugs are changing."

WORDS: JORDAN BASSETT PHOTOS: REX, ALLSTAR

Clear your diaries!

Jack Rocks is coming to a town near you

Carl Barât And The Jackals play Hackney Wonderland on October 10

THIS AUTUMN'S RUN OF JACK Rocks gigs is already in full swing. Get out there and help celebrate the UK's best small venues at one of these shows.

Carl Barât And The Jackals, Toy, Tom Vek, Bo Ningen @ *Hackney Wonderland, London, October 10*
WHO A Libertine (Carl), five psychedelic Londoners (Toy), an offbeat electro-popster (Vek), four Japanese acid-punks (Ningen).
WHY An unmissable all-star line-up of underground indie greats from the past 10 years.

Wolfsbane @ *Birmingham The Asylum, October 22*
WHO Cult 1980s metallers.
WHY To raise your devil horns.

The Ordinary Boys @ *Southampton Joiners, October 24*
WHO Reformed Moz-loving mods.
WHY To bounce along to indie disco classics.

Simon Felice @ *Glasgow King Tut's, October 24*
WHO Americana singer-songwriter.
WHY For rough-hewn folksy catharsis.

Sundara Karma @ *Southampton Joiners, November 1*
WHO Leather-clad rock gods in training.
WHY Think Peace meets Bruce Springsteen.

Swn Festival @ *Cardiff Various venues, November 7-8*
WHAT Radio 1 DJ Huw Stephens' music festival.
WHY Jack Rocks are hosting the top floor of Clwb Ifor Bach.

Can't make it? Don't worry! Watch it all online. Head to nme.com/jackrocks to watch video from all the shows. It's almost as good as being there.

Mr Robot: a beginner's guide

It's been the TV hit of the summer in the US, and arrives on Amazon Prime in the UK on October 16. Let creator Sam Esmail intro you to the 10-part cyberpunk thriller

Christian Slater is the leader of a hacktivist cell

Christian Slater plays Mr Robot

The *True Romance* star is Mr Robot – the techno-anarchist leader of a cell of hacktivists called fsociety, who want to erase world debt. Things get interesting when he enters Elliot's life.
Esmail says: ***"He's unpredictable. Dangerous. You can't read him. He'd happily hug you one minute then pull a gun on you the next."***

Rami Malek plays vigilante hacker Elliot

Meet Elliot – the hacker anti-hero

Elliot is a maladjusted junkie who works as an internet security adviser for a corporation he detests, but moonlights as a vigilante hacker. 34-year-old actor Rami Malek plays him with bug-eyed, dislocated intensity.
Esmail says: ***"He's cold, standoffish, has incredible social anxiety, and isn't particularly kind to people. He's got a lot of inner turmoil and pain."***

It's inspired by the Arab Spring

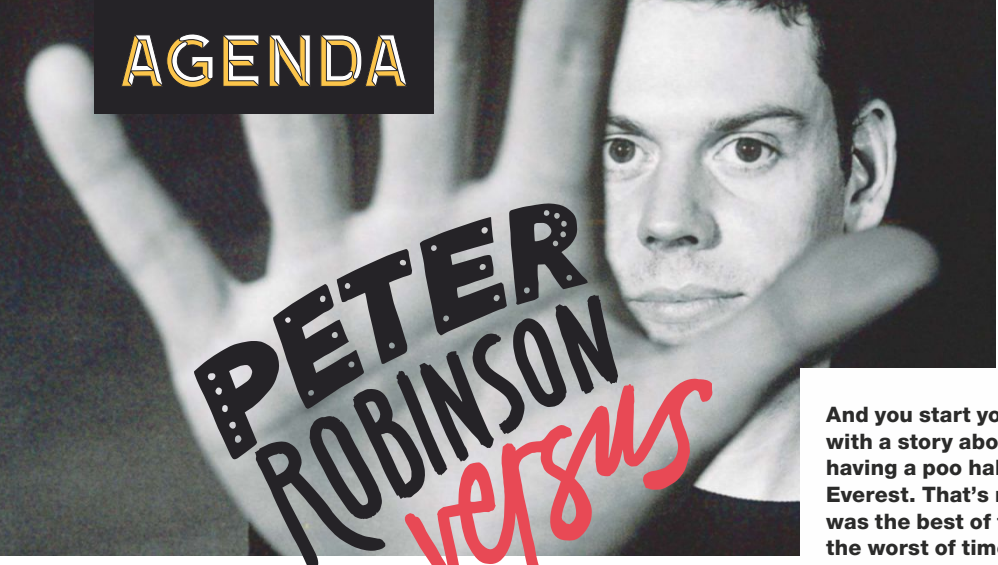
The show taps into contemporary themes of global unrest.
Esmail says: ***"I'm Egyptian so after the Arab Spring happened, I talked to my young cousins. They were part of that revolution, using technology to change the status quo, as Elliot tries to do."***

It tackles mental illness

Mr Robot is told from Elliot's point of view. But how much of what we're seeing is real, and how much is a product of Elliot's spiralling psychological problems?
Esmail says: ***"I guess we'll find out! It's the high wire act of keeping the audience guessing and Elliot compelling."***

For more on the hottest new shows visit NME.com

WORDS: GARY RYAN



PETER ROBINSON versus Brian Blessed

Actor, booming voiceover king, *Peppa Pig* patriarch

Hello, Br—
WHO THE BLOODY HELL ARE YOU? "(*Bursts into song*) *I'm the father of 22, get out you dirty b*stard!"*

Hi, Brian. Are you at home?
I'm in my shed! I like to look out at my garden with all my things from expeditions all around me. Models of old elephants and God knows WHAT.

Do you get into character before people phone you?
Oh, I'm just me. Always me. Always Brian Blessed, nobody else.

Have you been getting more work since people started writing #blessed on Twitter?
I really have, but it's very difficult – 50 per cent of my life is acting and voiceovers and the other 50 per cent is exploration. I have to work out my time with great discipline.

So you've got a new book out...
I've already written five books and a coffee-table book! But normally I can't stand actors' books! They're always full of SH*TE! "I met my very good friend and we had lunch then dinner" — OH F*** OFF! I can't bear all that. But there are lots of explorers in mine.

You said you've written a coffee-table book but realistically, how much is there to write about coffee tables?
Well, it was a coffee-table book about EVEREST! Stage by stage, how to climb it — how your brain can blow up, how your eyes can come out!

And you start your new book with a story about someone having a poo halfway up Everest. That's not exactly "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times", is it?
I'm giving you something organic! You don't go up Everest and go "I'm going for a wee-wee and a little poo" — if you're up there at 27,000 feet you will DIE if you don't F***ING SH*T PROPERLY.

The book contains the phrase "what a pillock". What other insults have gone out of fashion?
WAZZOCK.

If Ellie Goulding asked you to shout "Goulding's alive" at the start of her new album, what would you say?
Oh yes, absolutely, I'd do that. Do you want me to do that? Yes.

"If you're up there at 27,000 feet you will DIE if you don't SH*T PROPERLY"

How did you get the role of Grampy Rabbit in *Peppa Pig*?
They just offered it to me! And I've signed up to do another 25! It's amazing! I believe last year *Peppa Pig* brought in $1billion! It's bringing in more money than any film!

What do they pay you?
Well, I get between £500 and £1,000 per episode. That's not bad at all! Do you know how much my first job was? At 14? THIRTY-FIVE SHILLINGS! For making COFFINS!

Now they're back in, are you glad you stuck with your beard?
OH YES! I've always had a beard. I've always been me! I survive and I survive. I don't believe in death! It dosn't exist! Forget this f***ing age crap. It's not how old you are, it's how you're old! Don't let the b*stards grind you down!

Can I call you in the future if I ever need a pep talk?
ANY TIME, my old son!

Read more *Peter Robinson Versus* on NME.com

Blessepedia

BOSS NASS
Brian's character in *The Phantom Menace*. He's up for a role in the new one, too, if anyone's interested. Anyone?

DALAI LAMA
The man Brian once punched ("gently").

'DINOSAUR STOMP, THE'
His *Peppa Pig* character Grampy Rabbit's best song. (He runs an underwhelming dinosaur theme park.)

Z CARS
Brian appeared in the '70s police show – essentially *The Wire* with better enunciation.

GOOD WEEK

Matt Damon
His new film *The Martian* made $55m in its first weekend. You could buy your own planet for that. Or a small flat in Chelsea.

Princess Leia
The *Star Wars* siren's legendary gold bikini just sold for £63,000, so expect her to put all of her old pants up on eBay.

Adele
The singer found out her new album could be beaten to Number One by 'Now! 92' – they're both out on Nov 20.

NWA
The rappers suffered a major hit to their credibility when Chancellor George Osborne admitted he's a fan.

BAD WEEK

GETTY, RETNA, REX, LANDMARK MEDIA

SONY

SPECTRE

007

IN CINEMAS OCTOBER

Made for Bond

XPERIA Z5

with fast autofocus
and low-light technology

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Dress to impress

Designer Dapper Dan's in a new film about rap fashion – check out his signature looks

IN CINEMAS ON OCTOBER 30, documentary *Fresh Dressed* chronicles the history of hip-hop style via interviews with Kanye West, A$AP Rocky and Pharrell Williams. It also pays homage to the don of rap tailoring, Dapper Dan, who dressed the great and the good of hip-hop out of his 24-hour boutique in Harlem throughout the 1980s. "Dapper Dan was Tom Ford before Tom Ford," explains Nas of the man who invented high-end urban luxury. We called him in New York to get the gossip on some of his boldest collaborations.

Dapper Dan with LL Cool J

LL Cool J

Super-smooth party rapper
Biggest tune: 'Mama Said Knock You Out'
Dapper Dan says: "One of the street guys brought LL Cool J into my store. The hip-hop artists wanted to be like the street guys but in the beginning LL Cool J was relatively shy because Harlem could be very intimidating. I must have made at least 20 or 30 outfits for him – I made clothes for all his tours. This jacket was made out of red denim to match his hat and his sneakers."

Salt-N-Pepa

Seminal rap trio
Biggest tune: 'Push It'
Dapper Dan says: "These outfits were for the Push It tour. Back then the oversize look was in. These are among my favourites because they're like Letterman jackets, but with a twisted urban look and the hats we made to go with them have an African flavour. I always thought that these jackets were gonna be a timeless piece."

Eric B & Rakim

Influential rap duo
Biggest tune: 'Paid In Full'
Dapper Dan says: "Those are the most popular jackets I made. They set the trend for everything to come, that ostentatious look. I made thousands of those jackets. The minimum for all leather jackets made like that then was $1,200. The most expensive items I ever made were cars."

Rap's best-dressed

The most stylish emcees in the game

RUN-DMC
New York rap legends
Biggest tune: 'It's Like That'
They dedicated a song – 1986's 'My Adidas' – to their favourite brand.

ANDRÉ 3000
The flamboyant half of OutKast
Biggest tune: 'Hey Ya!'
A lover of old-school tweed, natty hats and zoot suits.

WORDS: LEONIE COOPER PHOTOS: DAPPERDANOFHARLEM.COM, GETTY

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

2

Marriage proposals yelled from New York audiences at Chvrches' Lauren Mayberry and Keira Knightley respectively.

30

Minutes it took for Glastonbury 2016 tickets to sell out. Coldplay, Adele and Foo Fighters are favourites to headline.

£190,000

Price paid for Ian Curtis' Macclesfield house by a fan planning to turn it into a Joy Division museum.

10

Years for which plotlines of future *Transformers* movies have already been worked out, Hasbro Studios claim.

Aziz Ansari writes, directs and stars in *Master Of None*

Master of comedy

Parks And Recreation* star Aziz Ansari talks exclusively about his new Netflix show *Master Of None

WHEN *PARKS AND RECREATION* ended earlier this year, TV lost loveable government official and swagger coach Tom Haverford. Luckily, actor and stand-up comic Aziz Ansari is back with a new Netflix show: *Master Of None*, which premieres on November 6. In it, he tackles the following:

Post-war India

Aziz: "In the show we have flashbacks to my dad's old life in India. It's ambitious and not the sort of thing you see in a show with all white people. They were born in Detroit. Done. Journey over."

Unsafe sex

Aziz: "There are a lot of sex scenes, which was new for me. It's uncomfortable to film but we wanted it to be real. In one scene we show what happens when my character is having sex and the condom breaks. It really captures the awkwardness of that moment."

Showbiz racism

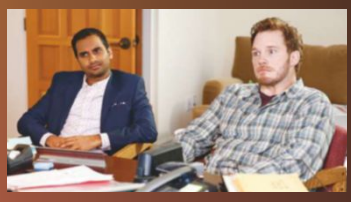
Aziz: "My character is an actor auditioning for a role as a cab driver. The director asks him to do an Indian accent and he's not sure if he wants to. People think things are diverse now but shows are still a bunch of white guys and one Asian person they know."

Being Aziz Ansari

Aziz: "Stand-up is the only time I've got to be me before this. If people don't connect to it then I know that at least I got to make the show I wanted to."

Aziz-y does it Ansari's key roles

FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS *(2007)*
Aziz made his mainstream debut as snarky fruit stand owner Sinjay in the episode *Drive By*.



PARKS AND RECREATION *(2009-2015)*
As Pawnee's supreme wannabe pimp, Tom Haverford, Aziz shot into the US comedy A-list.

Grimes' Ac!d Reign tour reaches the UK in March next year

Grimes brings the weird with new tour

They might just be the wildest gigs of 2016

CLAIRE BOUCHER, AKA GRIMES, the other-worldly queen of leftfield pop, has announced a surefire contender for next year's most exciting live event – a seven-date UK tour called Ac!d Reign, starting March 6 in Bristol. Be excited!

- She promises an "immersive live experience". Expect unhinged backing dancers, elaborate outfits and high drama.
- She'll play tracks from the follow-up to 2012's mighty 'Visions', which arrives this autumn.
- She cites Marilyn Manson and Mariah Carey as influences, and in one video dances merrily around a house with an axe. What's not to like?

Tickets are on sale now. See NME.com for full tour dates

WORDS: DAVID RENSHAW, LISA WRIGHT PHOTOS: MARTIN SCHOELLER, NETFLIX

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's on your Headphones?

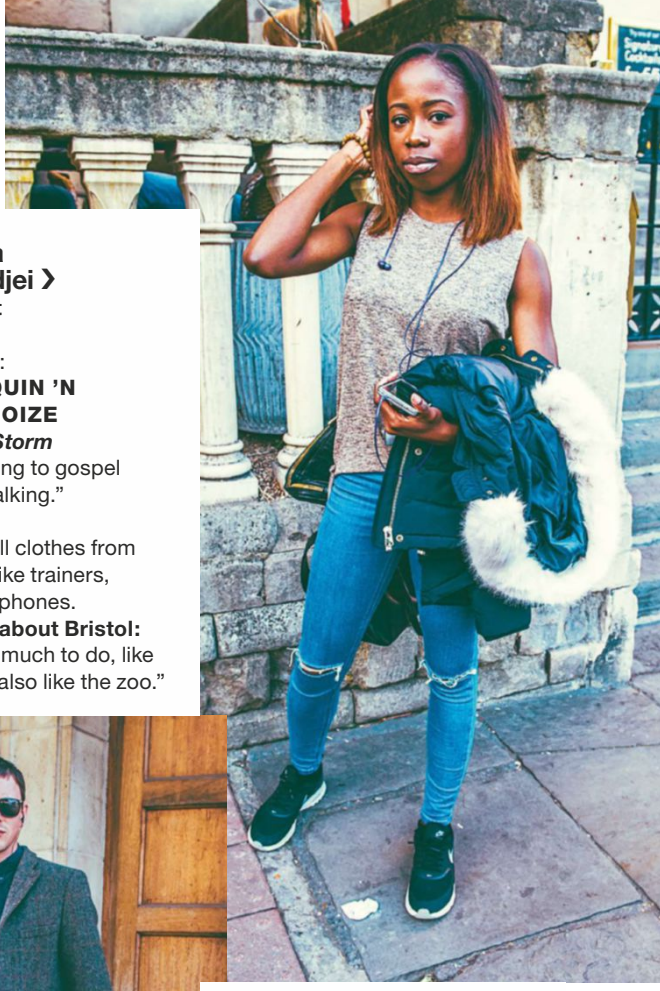
THIS WEEK

Bristol

❮ Maisie Drysdale
22, shop assistant at Head record store

Listening to:
BLUR
Beetlebum
"We were talking about it last night in the pub so I thought I'd give it a proper listen."

Wearing: Levi's shirt, H&M cardigan, Topshop jeans, mum's scarf, shoes from Corfu.
Best thing about Bristol: "When I moved here I didn't know anyone, but now I know loads of people. I have nothing bad to say about Bristol!"



Malandra Antwi-Adjei ❯
18, student

Listening to:
GREG O'QUIN 'N JOYFUL NOIZE
I Told The Storm
"I like listening to gospel while I'm walking."

Wearing: All clothes from Topshop, Nike trainers, Tesco headphones.
Best thing about Bristol: "There's so much to do, like the clubs. I also like the zoo."

❮ Lee Bundy
35, unemployed carpenter

Listening to:
NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS
Jubilee Street
"Because I'm hungover and it's depressing."

Wearing: Burton blazer, Next shoes, sunglasses from eBay
Best thing about Bristol: "It's small and you can walk everywhere. There's no reason to leave."

PHOTOS: LAURA PALMER

Adam Hooper ❯
28, office worker

Listening to:
FRANK TURNER
The Fisher King Blues
"I really love Frank's lyrics."

Wearing: Vans jacket, Reuben band T-shirt, H&M jeans, Ray-Ban sunglasses.
Best thing about Bristol: "I love Atomic Burger and Grillstock, and I spend hours in the Rise record shop."

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Katherine Ryan

NME'S BRAND NEW COLUMNIST

ON...

Nicole Scherzinger

THIS WEEK HAS been all over the place. I've been working like a mule putting the finishing touches to my new UK tour and getting ready for the launch of Sky 1's *Bring The Noise* – a game-packed music entertainment show hosted by Ricky Wilson with team captains Tinie Tempah and Nicole Scherzinger. I'll be trying to be funny alongside them every week, but mostly I'll be there just to remind people how gorgeous and Hawaiian Nicole is. If there's ever a moment of doubt like, "Wait, is Nicole's level of beauty achievable by a human woman?", they'll just cut to a shot of me in a vest, eating cheese and holding a sign that says, "Here's your answer!" I can't wait for that cheese.

I've followed Nicole's career ever since she was a contestant on *Popstars*, an American television series that documented the search for the next big girl band, creating the group Eden's Crush. (Cheryl then-Tweedy got her break on the UK version, *Popstars: The Rivals* a year later.) It's completely worth watching back on YouTube. *Popstars* saw hundreds of young women audition from across the US, but settled on 10 hopefuls for the final. Hilariously, a few dropped out at the last minute for reasons that were then considered to be valid: "I'll miss my family", "This isn't the right fit for me", "I'd like to finish school". Nowadays, you'd be laughed out of Hollywood with those bullsh*t sentimental excuses, as a teen mum next to you pushed her infant son forward to become the next Justin Bieber.

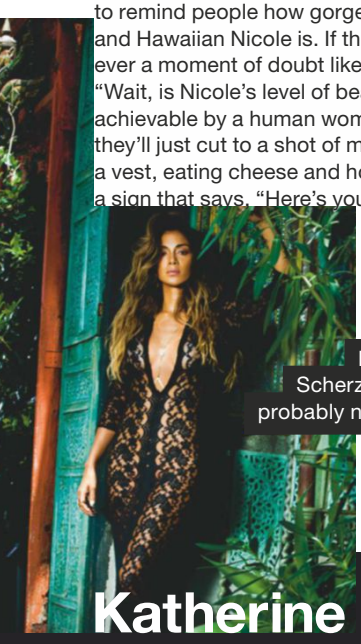
Music mogul and producer David Foster took one look at the 10 finalists and said, "Nope. We don't have enough strong girls to make a group." So he held *more* open auditions to find the right talent. Burrrrrn. He did that in the finals! Such a slap in the face to those who had made it that far. What followed was a massive queue of California babes singing Britney or Christina into a sound booth. Half of them were actresses whose vibe was like, "Whatever. I'm tired of waitressing and I don't particularly want to have sex for money." I spotted Taryn Manning of *Orange Is The New Black* [she plays Tiffany 'Pennsatucky' Doggett] belting out 'Genie In A Bottle' during that final! How did they not choose Taryn Manning? Obviously Nicole Scherzinger was chosen. She was chosen first. She'd been the only shoe-in from the start. Judges knocked on her door and announced her victory while she sat in the front room wearing a cowboy hat with only her mum for company. Nicole's mum cried as though she had psychic powers and knew what Nicole would ultimately achieve beyond the reality show.

"Is Nicole's level of beauty achievable by a human woman?"

Popstars filled the rest of the group with Nicole's glorified backing dancers; kind of a precursor for what her next band Pussycat Dolls would be. Their first single, 'Get Over Yourself', went to Number One in Canada. With the amount of times I listened to it, I might've personally had a lot to do with that. "*Get over yourself, goodbye/It must be hard to be you, yeah, livin' in your life*" are words I've recited to many an ex boyfriend.

I'm gushing over Nicole Scherzinger, I know. But we haven't started working together yet so don't you worry, I'll let you know if she turns out to be evil. Disappointingly, I've only heard good things.

PHOTO BELLA HOWARD, GETTY, REX. STYLING JEN MICHALSKI-BRAY. HAIR & MAKE-UP LOUISE STACE. TOP BY FOREVER UNIQUE, SKIRT BY KATE SPADE, MADISON AVE, RINGS BY CARAT AND SWAROVSKI, BRACELET BY LOLA & GRACE



Nicole Scherzinger: probably not evil

Katherine Ryan's high five

Celebrities I would like to see running against Kanye West in the 2020 US Presidential race

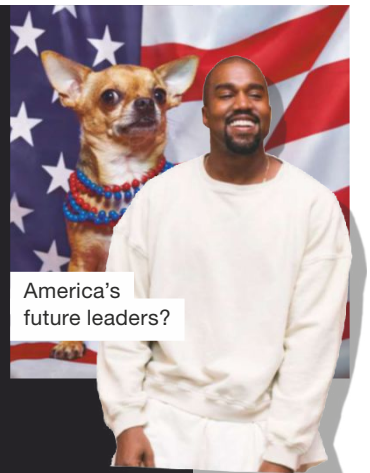
1 Gay Buddhist George Takei of *Star Trek* fame. I'd love to see right-wingers calling for the California-born actor's birth certificate as he continued to tackle LGBT and human rights issues.

2 Miley Cyrus could be anyone by 2020. Look at her transformation between 2011-2013. If she can go from daddy's country girl to twerking megathug, she could be battling ISIS in her next incarnation.

3 Everybody loves Taylor Swift. And Kanye promised her that "I'ma let you finish" at the VMAs in 2009, so she'd always get the last word in debates.

4 Actor RuPaul presents *RuPaul's Drag Race*. The Presidential race can be a drag, so why not give it to a drag queen?

5 A dog. I'd like to see how a dog would do in an election. A lot of people would vote for a dog.



America's future leaders?

THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

A la mod
Channel the mod look this winter with a classic Supply And Demand parka
£70 *jdsports.com*

Two tone
Match your dip-dye hair with this autumnal polo-neck jumper
£49.99 *hm.com*

Bag for life
The wipe-clean Scuba Weekender Holdall is handy for all muddy situations
£32 *asos.com*

Wind breaker
Plain and simple, this weatherproof jacket will go with any outfit
£85 *bellfieldclothing.com*

Beanie man
Cold weather needn't mean drab clothes. Stand out with this faux-fur-topped beanie hat
£14 *topshop.com*

Phone home
Decorate your mobile with an Indian-inspired Mandala iPhone 6 case
£12 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Winter warmer
Wrap up warm with this patterned navy-and-white cardigan
£130 *armorlux.com*

Wrapped up
With a colour block design and tassels, this scarf is a neat way to stay snug this season
£14 *dorothyperkins.com*

Keep the pace
Brighten up your Sunday strolls with these pink-trimmed New Balance 373 Women's trainers
£55 *jdsports.com*

Pop your collar
With a detachable Sherpa collar, this longline bomber offers two looks for the price of one
£100 *native-youth.com*

Box fresh
Keep your trainers clean and puddle-proof with Crep Protect spray
£10 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Believe the hype
Minimal in design, big on comfort – this jumper from Hype is cosy and stylish
£34.99 *justhype.co.uk*

Get appy
The Scotts Menswear app lets you nab all the latest and coolest premium brand items
Free, *the app store*

Kid gloves
These textured mittens with decorative pom-poms will take you back to your childhood
£10 *asos.com*

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What's it like to rule the pop universe, boss corporations around and sell record-breaking numbers of albums, all while the internet scrutinises your every move? Dan Stubbs meets the world's biggest – and politest – superstar to find out.

TAYLOR SWIFT'S DRESSING ROOM smells like Madonna. It's thanks to a scented candle presented by the old queen of pop to the new, after Swift commented on the aroma of Madge's own chambers. "But hers has a hint of eucalyptus mist, too," says Taylor. "I don't have the wherewithal to work a steamer – it seems very complex."

As we speak, a display of alien-looking purple flowers arrives from Mary J Blige. Also delivered this morning was a presentation box of M&M's imprinted with the images of Swift's two cats. "I am *freaking out* about them," she says, zipping across the room. "I sent pictures to all my friends." She plops back down on the sofa. "So... that's my dressing room vibe!"

PHOTOGRAPHY JORDAN HUGHES

We're backstage at the 1989 Tour, the blockbuster arena spectacular in support of Swift's world-beating album of the same name. This is the fourth of an unprecedented five sold-out nights at LA's Staples Center, and Swift is loving every minute. "I was thinking about this yesterday and it hit me: I don't want this tour to end. Ever," she says. "And that's never happened to me before."

Part of the fun of the 1989 Tour is its revolving cast of surprise special guests. Last night, Alanis Morissette joined her to sing angsty 1995 hit 'You Oughta Know', and comedian Ellen DeGeneres walked the catwalk dressed as what Swift describes as "a disco ball ballerina". The guests keep things fresh where nerves no longer do. "I [only] get nervous for TV or any situation in which I feel there are people in the audience who hate me," she says, hugging her legs to her chest. "If there are a considerable amount of people in the first couple of rows who I know are wishing I would trip and fall onstage, that stresses me out. So not at my shows. Maybe an awards show or something..."

Swift has, as she puts it, "had a lot of very… *off the wall* things happen" at awards shows, whether going home with so many trophies you feel embarrassed for the other performers or being interrupted on stage at 2009's MTV VMAs, when Kanye West decided Swift's Best Female Video nod was an insult to Beyoncé. "I'm one of the few [to have experienced that] – and the other one is in the next dressing room," she says, gesturing towards the wall. "Did you know Beck's here?"

Singer-songwriter Beck, target of West's ire at this year's Grammys, is tonight's guest performer. So is this some kind of survivors club? "No, me and Kanye are on such good terms now, six years later," says Swift. "It took a while... But I had to tell Beck this story earlier. I was at dinner with Kanye a week after the Grammys, he stops what he's saying and he goes, 'What is this song? I need to listen to this *every day*.' I say, 'It's Beck, it's on an album called 'Morning Phase', I think you've heard of it…' We just burst out laughing. And he says, 'Hey, sometimes I'm wrong.'"

Looming over the weekend, this year's VMAs pose their own threat, following a back-and-forth with rapper Nicki Minaj. Affronted at not being nominated for her own 'Anaconda' video, Minaj tweeted, "If your video celebrates women with very slim bodies, you will be nominated for vid of the year." Swift took this as a swipe at her own supermodel-tastic 'Bad Blood' video and tweeted back, setting in motion a two-day media feeding frenzy in which everyone from Katy Perry (Team Nicki) to Ed Sheeran (Team Taylor) waded in and, at its conclusion, Swift issued an earnest apology to Minaj.

So that's going to be awkward, right? Swift exhales deeply. "It's not any person in particular or any situation that makes me feel nervous about the VMAs, it's that I don't know what to be nervous about." How did she feel when it started blowing up? "I don't want to talk about it," she says. "But I send text messages now. If there seems to be some kind of misunderstanding, I go to someone's management, I get their number and I text them. It's an important lesson for anyone to learn in 2015."

Taylor Swift is experiencing a funny kind of fame. Her album '1989' is a cultural milestone, a new generation's answer to 'Thriller'. While that album's mega-success set Michael Jackson on course for a peculiar life, he arguably had an easier ride than Swift. She lives in a world in which her every word, move, outfit and Instagram post is dissected in real time. "I'm in the news every single day for multiple different reasons," she says. "And it can feel, at times, if you let your anxiety get the better of you, like everybody's waiting for you to really mess up – and then you'll be done. A lot of the time I need to call my mom and talk for a really long time, just to remind myself of all the things that are great and all the things that matter. If you do something that defines your character to be not what the public thought you were, that's the biggest risk."

The question is, what *do* the public think of Taylor Swift? The brilliant, fizzy 2014 single 'Shake It Off' spoke of tutting hordes – "*They say I stay out too late, go on too many dates*" – but Swift is the

"It can feel like every-one is waiting for you to mess up"

Taylor Swift in Numbers

1,287,000
Copies of '1989' sold in its first week of release

13
Taylor's lucky number (she was born on December 13, 1989)

46
Major music awards won, including 22 *Billboard* Music Awards

64.2 million
Twitter followers

350
Pages in the novel Taylor wrote, aged 13

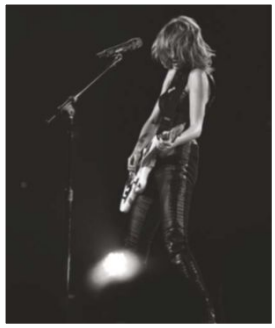
2
Cats Taylor owns (Olivia and Meradith)

$1,989
The amount Taylor donated to a fan to help her pay a student load

$4million
Amount she donated to build an education centre at the Country Music Hall Of Fame

"I should take some time off. People need a break from me"

Behind the scenes: Taylor with Beck and St Vincent backstage



STYLING: JOSEPH CASSEL, HAIR & MAKE-UP: BRETT FREEDMAN PHOTOS: TAS RIGHTS MANAGEMENT, GETTY BRINSON + BANKS

opposite. The luminous glare of public attention has challenged pop stars to go further and further to shock: weed smoking, body part-flashing – none of it means anything any more. Taylor is the opposite. She has an enviable coterie of high-achieving female friends, among them models, writers, singers and actresses. She dresses immaculately. She doesn't swear at all in an hour's conversation. She sells perfection, and that's the most difficult look to sustain. Miley and Rihanna don't claim to be role models. Taylor does.

"It's not about trying to be perfect," she insists. "Not to try and sound like the good witch in *The Wizard Of Oz* or something, but I really do want to do good things with what I have, and that's it. I don't think my brain could cook up very shocking things for the sake of being shocking."

Recently, Swift's been flexing her business muscle, personally taking on first Spotify and then Apple, who she called out for not paying royalties to artists in the trial period of Apple Music. Astonishingly, Apple's Senior VP Eddy Cue capitulated to Swift's will the very next day. You'd call it a David & Goliath battle but first you'd have to decide which is which. Swift is the archetypal tall poppy and the shears are already out, from gossip websites questioning the hierarchy of her friend 'squad' to a viral video in which comedian Lara Marie Schoenhals plays a bubbly Swift introducing the Salem witches and "the fabulous 51 victims of Bill Cosby" to the stage.

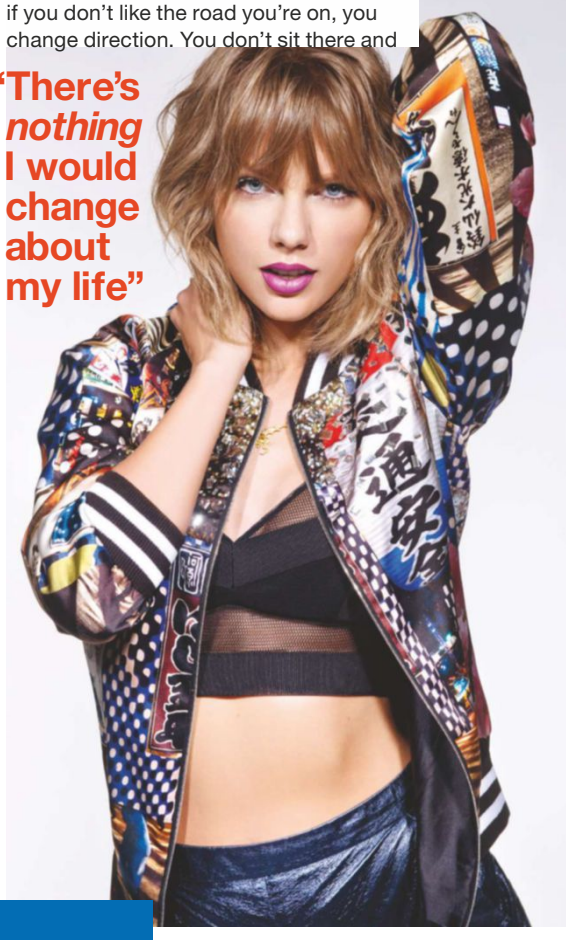
If there's a backlash brewing, Swift intends to – well – shake it off. "There's really nothing I can do about it, because I'm living my life the way I want to live it," she says. "If you want to be snarky about me sharing my stage with other artists and giving these fans – who've paid their own money to see a show – more than they expected to see that night, if you'd like to be snarky about that, then go ahead."

Swift seems preternaturally well adjusted for a 25-year-old operating under such intense scrutiny, but she's far from her first flurry of success. Having moved her family from Pennsylvania to Nashville, she signed to RCA Records at 14 and tapped into an under-served market of teenage country music fans. "In 10 years of touring and writing albums, and having my confessional songwriting misunderstood, misconstrued, paraphrased, investigated, I've never wavered. This is the way I want to live my life," she says. Does she ever think about the things she's lost in her pursuit of a music career? She looks back incredulously. "There's *nothing* I would change about my life!"

You wouldn't like to be able to walk down the street unnoticed?

"Nah! I want to play stadiums." She extends both hands as if weighing the options. "Playing stadiums... walking down the street... I'd choose playing stadiums. It's a trade-off. There's no way to travel two roads at once. You pick one. And if you don't like the road you're on, you change direction. You don't sit there and go, 'Oh, I wish I could have all the good things in the world and none of the bad things.' It doesn't work like that."

"There's *nothing* I would change about my life"



What they say about Tay

Madonna
"I think she writes some really catchy pop songs. I can't get them out of my head."

Ryan Adams
"Songwriter to songwriter, I feel she's extraordinary. I admire her greatly."

Ed Sheeran
"Taylor is a beautiful soul, and such a sweetheart."

Selena Gomez
"Every single problem I ever have is healable by Taylor Swift!"

Morrissey
[on her Brit Awards appearance] "Taylor Swift has nothing to do with Coventry or Wrexham."

Katy Perry
"Regina George [from *Mean Girls*] in sheep's clothing."

Noel Gallagher
"She seems like a nice girl."

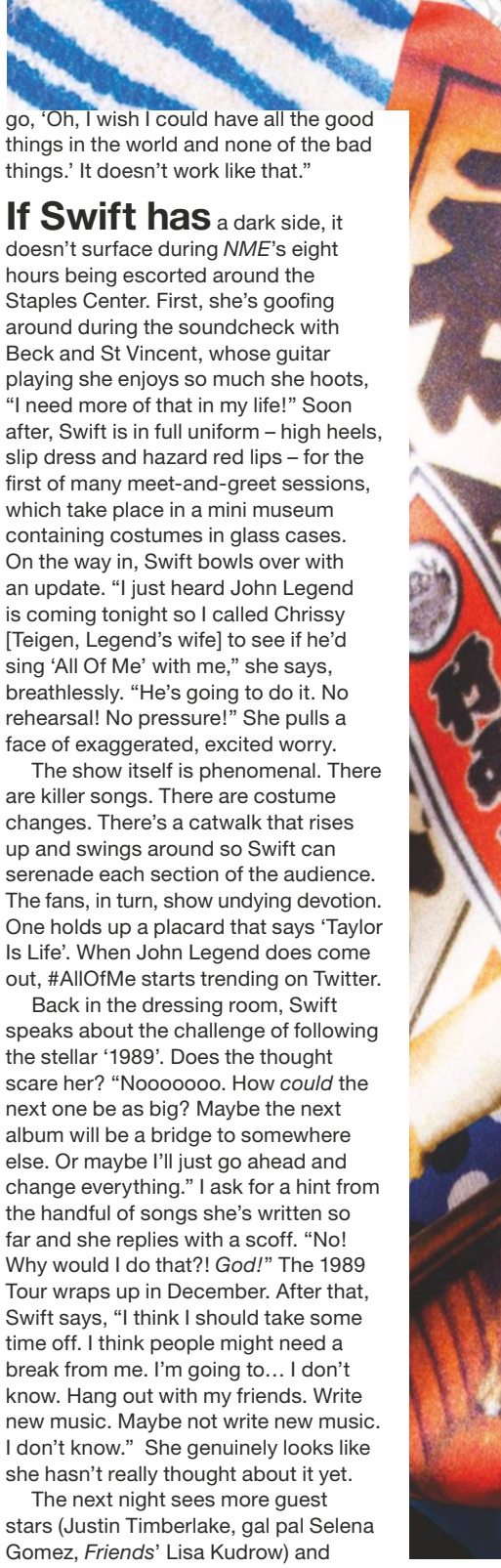
If Swift has a dark side, it

doesn't surface during *NME*'s eight hours being escorted around the Staples Center. First, she's goofing around during the soundcheck with Beck and St Vincent, whose guitar playing she enjoys so much she hoots, "I need more of that in my life!" Soon after, Swift is in full uniform – high heels, slip dress and hazard red lips – for the first of many meet-and-greet sessions, which take place in a mini museum containing costumes in glass cases. On the way in, Swift bowls over with an update. "I just heard John Legend is coming tonight so I called Chrissy [Teigen, Legend's wife] to see if he'd sing 'All Of Me' with me," she says, breathlessly. "He's going to do it. No rehearsal! No pressure!" She pulls a face of exaggerated, excited worry.

The show itself is phenomenal. There are killer songs. There are costume changes. There's a catwalk that rises up and swings around so Swift can serenade each section of the audience. The fans, in turn, show undying devotion. One holds up a placard that says 'Taylor Is Life'. When John Legend does come out, #AllOfMe starts trending on Twitter.

Back in the dressing room, Swift speaks about the challenge of following the stellar '1989'. Does the thought scare her? "Noooooooo. How *could* the next one be as big? Maybe the next album will be a bridge to somewhere else. Or maybe I'll just go ahead and change everything." I ask for a hint from the handful of songs she's written so far and she replies with a scoff. "No! Why would I do that?! *God!*" The 1989 Tour wraps up in December. After that, Swift says, "I think I should take some time off. I think people might need a break from me. I'm going to… I don't know. Hang out with my friends. Write new music. Maybe not write new music. I don't know." She genuinely looks like she hasn't really thought about it yet.

The next night sees more guest stars (Justin Timberlake, gal pal Selena Gomez, *Friends*' Lisa Kudrow) and the conclusion of the LA run. That weekend at the VMAs, Swift sings with Nicki Minaj, Minaj turns her attention on Miley Cyrus, Cyrus' errant nipple dominates headlines and Taylor's new video is accused of being a "colonialist fantasy" in various thinkpieces. Swift doesn't comment; dignified silence is often the best response. Her life seems exhausting, like one big chess game. But she's wired for it. After the show, Taylor's dad is hanging around. I tell him how much I enjoyed the show. "Sure," he says, "But who's having the most fun? Taylor is. As always." Dad probably knows best.



THE LIBERTINES

THE BIG QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The band are back and bigger than ever. And yet so many questions remain unanswered. Enter Rhian Daly...

THEY 'COPTERED IN AND STOLE Glastonbury 2015 with the set of the weekend. They rampaged through Camden playing tiny shows and invading stages like 2003 never ended. Their headline set owned Reading and Leeds Festivals and their comeback album 'Anthems For Doomed Youth' raised the good ship Albion from the depths and sailed it on to glory. As Pete, Carl, Gary and John just keep on getting bigger, so too do the mysteries surrounding them. Here are the questions the fans want answered.

What was Pete's recent 'medical emergency'?

On September 10, Pete failed to show up for a gig at the Electric Ballroom in Camden citing a medical emergency, and fans were left with a familiar pang of disappointment. But fear not, no legs were lost nor bandmates walloped. According to the official statement, Pete suffered a "serious anxiety attack" in the lead-up to the show, fleeing to Coventry to be near friends in his support network. The Libs' on-tour drug counsellor, Dylan Kerr, provides context:

"Anxiety is purely a psychological experience and the person must do whatever is necessary to arrest those feelings. It is a good thing that Peter is trying to live a normal life, as these are the reactions to stress that you're taught to use in rehab – avoid the stress and resume some normality." The plan is for Pete to return home to France between band engagements, to provide the normality required to keep The Libs' show on the road.

The Libertines (clockwise from top left): Gary Powell, John Hassall, Pete Doherty, Carl Barât

PHOTOS: JENN FIVE

Pete and Carl on stage at London's Dublin Castle in September

Will their 2016 arena tour go ahead as planned?

With Pete safely back in the saddle for a Berlin date two days after his anxiety attack, the Camden no-show seems like a minor wobble. Carl scoffs at the suggestion that touring with the band could still be difficult these days, since they're hardly top-and-tailing it on fans' sofas any more. "We've got a f***ing fleet of buses and private jets," he laughs. "Pete's insistent on driving around in his boo boo mobile. It's like a little caravan. That's good 'cos it gives him some space." And The Libertines, for the most part, have usually done a good job of proving the doubters wrong. "Everybody thought we were going to die, which we didn't. Just yet, touch wood."

How did the new album go down?

After receiving 4-star reviews from *Mojo* and *The Guardian* and a deeply considered 7/10 from *NME*, 'Anthems…' went on to chart at Number Three. Not quite the dizzy heights of The Libertines' chart-topping self-titled album in 2004, but impressive considering they were doing battle with such rock heavyweights as Bring Me The Horizon and Iron Maiden.

Is Pete still struggling with his addictions?

Before The Libertines recorded 'Anthems…' Pete was undergoing rehab in Thailand, where he met drug counsellor Dylan Kerr. When the band entered Karma Sound studios in Bang Saray, Kerr went along to talk to the band about how to help a now-clean Pete. "It was good to have someone whose focus was solely helping Peter," says Carl, speaking before the abandoned Electric Ballroom show. "I've been around [addiction] for years in different capacities – I've been to meetings for my own sanity as well. There was a bit where Dylan said, 'When Pete does all these things, think about yourselves.' That kind of thinking's quite new to me, and it's proved helpful about my own tolerance and recognising whether it's the addict or the addiction speaking." Dylan's been on the road with the band in the UK, too. "It's been great," says Carl. "It takes a little bit of heat off me, to be honest. Someone else to do the worrying. I still do the lion's share, though, don't worry."

Do their fans still care?

Oh, big time. The online reaction to the Electric Ballroom no-show was full of sympathy and concern. Some fans claimed not to have slept through worry.

Pete & Carl: the highs and lows

And there have been a few...

THE RECORD DEAL

After four years playing in London, Pete and Carl signed a deal with Rough Trade in 2001. The Libertines – completed by John Hassall and Gary Powell – then began their rapid ascent with the release of 'Up The Bracket' in October 2002.
Carl: "I was trapped before I met Pete. But then I met the Pigman and he said, 'You can actually knock that on the head and get out.' So we threw ourselves into eternity. And it worked." (*The Guardian*, January 2003)

THE BURGLARY

After being ejected from the band until he cleaned himself up, Pete burgled Carl's flat in the summer of 2003, for which he was later sentenced to six months in prison.
Pete: "[Prison] was a horrid, glorious affair, it's no different from day one of The Libertines really." (*The Libertines Bound Together*, 2006)

THE SPLIT

During the recording of 2004 album 'The Libertines', bouncers were hired to keep Pete and Carl from fighting. They played their last gig for six years in Paris, *sans* Pete.
Pete: "They left me, by the side of the road, with a plastic bag and all kinds of bitterness. But in my mind I don't think I ever really left The Libertines, nor can I ever leave." (*Newsnight*, December 2004)

THE REUNION

In 2010 the band reunited to perform at Reading And Leeds Festivals that August. Still, it was a further four years before the band were in a position to write and record again.
Carl: "Really, it's just lovely to speak to Peter again." (*NME*, April 2014)

Will they make another one?

Pete's said he'd like to get on with writing songs for a potential fourth album as soon as possible. Carl considers the idea "lovely" but isn't as quick to make such clear proclamations, claiming he can't think "more than 40 seconds ahead" at the moment.

Are Pete and Carl still mates?

Whereas their relationship was once volatile, things have settled down between the two in later life, thanks in large part to the pair keeping a respectful distance. Pete now lives near Paris while Carl remains in London – a positive development for both their relationship and their songwriting. "We've spent so long apart, I think we'd get on each other's t*ts," Carl reasons. "He's got his kids and his missus and his life, and I've got mine. When we're together we're the same boys. We're who we always were with each other, for each other. With songwriting, we bring more to the table."

Libs fans remain as loyal and passionate as ever

2015: the year trans culture went mainstream

Vanity Fair's groundbreaking Caitlyn Jenner cover, June 2015

From Caitlyn Jenner to *Boy Meets Girl* to Miley Cyrus' InstaPride campaign, 2015 is turning into a watershed year for transgender visibility in mainstream culture. Stuart Huggett leads a discussion about the changing times for trans actors, artists and musicians

The panel

Our experts sifting through the year's big trans talking points

Nye Todd
Singer and guitarist of Edinburgh band The Spook School, whose new album 'Try To Be Hopeful' explores issues around gender and identity

Fox Fisher
Filmmaker and activist who appeared in Channel 4's groundbreaking 2011 documentary series *My Transsexual Summer*

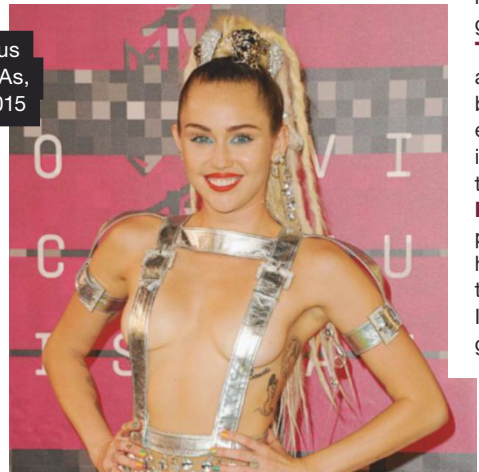
Michelle Steele
Drummer and occasional singer of Brighton group Slum Of Legs. Wrote their 2015 single 'Doll Like' while she was first transitioning

Rebecca Root
Actor, currently starring as Judy in BBC2 sitcom *Boy Meets Girl*

Caitlyn Jenner on the cover of *Vanity Fair*

FORMER OLYMPIC ATHLETE AND *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* star Caitlyn Jenner became America's most famous trans woman in April when she came out in an interview on ABC news show *20/20*. Photographed by Annie Leibovitz, her *Vanity Fair* 'Call me Caitlyn' cover served to cement her iconic status.

Todd: "I was in the US around the time she came out and it certainly made a massive cultural impact in a mainstream way there."
Fisher: "It's definitely started conversations in the mainstream, businesses and schools and such. I do think the trope of the older trans woman, those clichés of being awkward and sticking out, is going to fade away a little bit as there's a new idea of trans people who know who they are as kids. They have the internet and they can reach out to other people, they can actually get hormone blockers at an earlier age and not have to go through the trauma that some people experience with the wrong puberty."



Miley Cyrus at the VMAs, August 2015

Miley Cyrus outs herself as "gender fluid"

MILEY CYRUS HAS BEEN criticised for cultural appropriation (see her recent cornrow hairstyle) but her support for LGBT issues comes from the heart. In June, while promoting her Instagram 'InstaPride' campaign celebrating transgender people, Cyrus identified herself in *Time* magazine as "gender fluid". Rapper Angel Haze, who came out as "agender" in February, and actor Jaden Smith (son of Will) with his casual fondness for dresses ("Went to Topshop to buy some girl clothes, I mean 'clothes'" he wrote on Instagram) are among Cyrus' fellow celebrity trailblazers.

Steele: "The next important realisation for the public to grasp is that trans is a spectrum as diverse as sexuality. More musicians and artists coming out as gender fluid and agender can only help."
Todd: "Previously when there was talk about gender queer identities or non-binary identities people were like, 'What on earth?' Now people are going to be more informed or will make more of an effort if they feel a connection with somebody."
Fisher: "So much has happened in the past few years. It felt like we didn't even have a trans community back then and the mainstream press was really negative. I think people are starting to get a better grip on what it means to be trans now."

SHARON KILGANNON FOR BRIGHTON TRANSFORMED, STEVE LAWTON, BBC PICTURES/DIVERSE, GETTY, UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Laverne Cox with her wax figure, June 2015

Boy Meets Girl stars Rebecca Root and Harry Hepple

Madame Tussauds unveils Laverne Cox waxwork

THANKS TO HER PORTRAYAL OF trans character Sophia Burset in Netflix's lauded prison drama *Orange Is The New Black*, actor Laverne Cox was the first openly transgender woman to appear on the cover of *Time* magazine. In June, she also became the first trans woman to be immortalised as a waxwork by Madame Tussauds' San Francisco museum.

Fisher: "Laverne Cox is such a real figure and being on the cover of *Time* was a real pivotal point last year. I believe we now have the momentum for change after that tipping point."
Steele: "People like Caitlyn Jenner and [boxing promoter and one-time manager of Heavyweight Champion Lennox Lewis] Kellie Maloney have brought trans people to the forefront of the media, but at a cost. While they pursue media coverage on transitioning with beauty and femininity emphasised, they have some dubious views on issues like same sex marriage. Laverne, on the other hand, talks about trans people of colour and the horrific prejudice they encounter. Stars claiming to represent us should realise they are in a position where they can change the lives of minorities – black, disabled, poor – not just their fellow celebrities."

Boy Meets Girl is the BBC's first trans sitcom

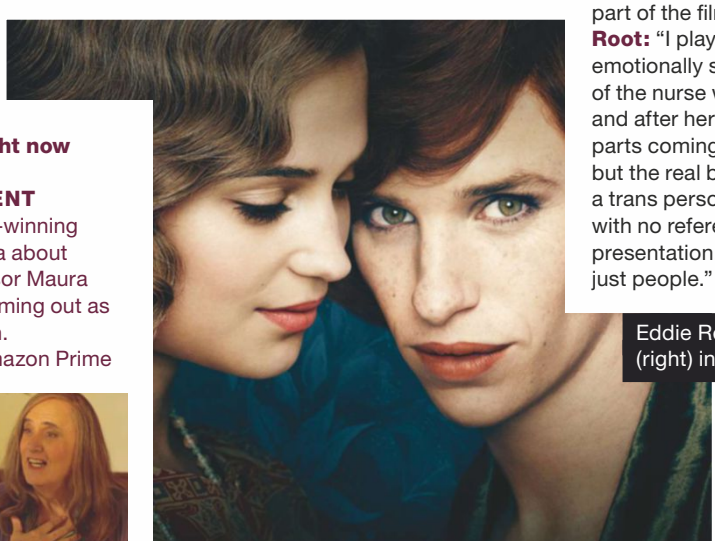
BEGINNING LAST MONTH, BBC2'S *Boy Meets Girl* is the first mainstream comedy programme to feature a transgender actor in a lead transgender role. Rebecca Root stars as Judy, a trans woman engaged in a romantic relationship with a younger man (played by Harry Hepple).

Root: "I had some small input in the script and the language/terminology but not much in the way of character development, although writer Elliott Kerrigan claims he can hear my voice in his head as he writes Judy's lines. Many younger trans actors and writers have told me they are inspired by the show and my performance in it and have been encouraged to come out to their family, friends or colleagues, which is heartwarming indeed."
Steele: "Lots of trans-themed drama has been quite dated and miserable until fairly recently. Now we're seeing more shows casting trans actors. Comedies such as *Boy Meets Girl* show multifaceted, interesting characters."

Eddie Redmayne is cast in *The Danish Girl*

TOM HOOPER'S FORTHCOMING film *The Danish Girl* tells the true story of Lili Elbe, one of the earliest recipients of sex reassignment surgery in the 1930s. As with Jared Leto in *Dallas Buyers Club*, Eddie Redmayne's casting as Elbe was criticised by some activists who argue that a trans actor should have landed the starring role, although others such as transgender film director Lana Wachowski lent Redmayne and Hooper their advice and support.
Fisher: "We've set up a trans acting course with the Royal Central School Of Speech And Drama in London and Eddie Redmayne came to our first session to talk to us about acting, how the trans actors in *The Danish Girl* didn't have a traditional background and what it was like for them being part of the film."
Root: "I play a very small but emotionally significant part, the role of the nurse who looks after Lili before and after her surgery. There are more parts coming through for trans people but the real breakthrough will be when a trans person simply plays a character with no reference to their gender presentation. They are just people."

NME



Eddie Redmayne (right) in *The Danish Girl*

Now watch these

Trans-positive dramas you can enjoy right now

SENSE8
A major sci-fi drama from Lana and Andy Wachowski. Trans actor Jamie Clayton plays one of the 'sensates', hacktivist Nomi Marks.
Watch on: Netflix

TRANSPARENT
Golden Globe-winning comedy drama about retired professor Maura Pfefferman coming out as a trans woman.
Watch on: Amazon Prime

ON TOUR SINCE 1866.

While Mr. Jack loved music, he had no musical talent of his own. So it seems a little ironic that his whiskey has become a mainstay from garages to festivals all over the world. Chances are, if live music is being played, a bottle of Jack is somewhere nearby. Along with folks enjoying both.

#JACKROCKS

NOT EVERY DRINK NEEDS AN ENCORE. PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

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for the facts **drinkaware.co.uk**

RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV AND MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

Best for a '90s-theme night
DMA'S
Lay Down
Sydney trio DMA's continue their Madchester homage with 'Lay Down'. All indie jangle and baggy vibes, they sound like The Stone Roses' brothers from another mother.

Best for minimal mash-ups
DRAKE FEAT. BEYONCÉ
Can I
Mixing sparse, laid-back beats and Drake's analytical rhymes with Beyonce's repeated, spoken word questioning ("*Can I, baby?*"), this is an exercise in polished, minimal perfection.

Best for the mosh pit
VANT
Parking Lot
Creeping riffs give way to a suckerpunch of a chorus on the latest cut from London newcomers Vant, who sound like they *really* love The Vines.

Best for a bit of bump 'n' grind
RICK ROSS
Buried In The Streets
The Florida rapper follows up his recent 'Black Dollar' mixtape with a low-slung, West Coast groove full of brass and warm backing vocals.

Best for a slow dance
COLDPLAY
Amazing Day
Debuted at New York's Global Citizen Festival, 'Amazing Day' is set to a slow waltz built for en masse swaying.

DAUGHTER

Best for having a good old cry to
DAUGHTER
Doing The Right Thing
The first song from melancholic mopers Daughter's second album is a weighty tale of loss and despair.

Best for house party carnage
PUBLIC ACCESS TV
Patti Peru
The buzzy New York upstarts' new single delivers life-affirming hooks and excitable melodies that distil the pure, unadulterated joy of youth.

BLOC PARTY

Best for raving
BLOC PARTY
The Love Within
New line-up! New song! And 'The Love Within' is a certified banger, full of rave synths and giant beats.

Best for pretending it's still summer
FORMATION
All The Rest Is Noise
Like the English answer to LCD Soundsystem's 'Dance Yrself Clean', south London duo Formation's newest is all shiny synths and summer swagger.

RAT BOY

Best for pavement boozing
RAT BOY
Wasteman
Chelmsford tyke Jordan Cardy's new B-side is a hybrid of early Jamie T and first-album Lily Allen, with bars about being on the dole spat over bouncing indie punk.

For more new music, go to NME.com

ANDY HUGHES, FRANCESCA JANE ALLEN, RACHAEL WRIGHT

Hurts (l-r): Theo Hutchcraft and Adam Anderson

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Hurts so good

They're still full of sombre, stylish gloom-pop elegance, but the Manchester synth duo flirt with optimism on a fist-pumping third album

HURTS
Surrender
★★★★☆
SWAGGER GLOOM ELECTRO

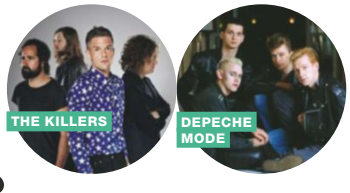
HURTS RECENTLY told *NME* that new album 'Surrender' is less "intense" than 2013's 'Exile'. Then they clarified: "But that's not to say it's all a barrel of laughs – we're still drawn to the darker side."

Manchester duo Theo Hutchcraft and Adam Anderson – whose sombre synthpop has sold like sauerkraut in mainland Europe – weren't simply trying to appease the faithful. Behold the chorus of album centrepiece 'Rolling Stone', which reads like the title of a particularly grim episode of *The Jeremy Kyle Show*: "*She said her daddy was an alcoholic and her mother was an animal...*"

Yet with assistance from hotshot producers Stuart Price (Madonna, The Killers) and Ariel Rechtshaid (Haim, Vampire Weekend), Hurts have made an album streaked with optimism. 'Surrender' begins with a stirring gospel-tinged intro and features some of the most euphoric pop songs Hutchcraft and Anderson have ever written. 'Nothing Will Be Bigger Than Us' is an EDM-flecked ode to togetherness, 'Kaleidoscope' gleefully pilfers the synth sounds from Fleetwood Mac's '80s earworm 'Little Lies' and 'Some Kind Of Heaven' is a fist-pumping love song to rival The Killers. Although 'Why' features some anguished lyrics ("*If this is love, why does it hurt so bad?*"), they're housed in a rousing chorus Coldplay would be proud of.

It's not all swagger and bombast though. 'Lights', a slinky electro-funk nugget that sounds like it belongs in an '80s rom-com, proves Hurts can pull off subtle when they want to. But because gloomy electro-R&B tunes 'Rolling Stone' and 'Slow' are less entertaining in comparison, it's difficult to ignore their slightly iffy lyrics. "*All I can think when you take off your mink is it's over*", Hutchcraft sings on the latter, sounding more sulky Peter Stringfellow than sophisticated modern pop star. Thankfully, these can't spoil an album packed with skyscraping highlights. **Nick Levine**

FOR FANS OF STRANGE BUT TRUE



Theo and Adam had strict conditions included in their new record contract. "We wouldn't sign unless we got a comb and an umbrella," says Theo.

Anatomy of a very modern pop star

Theo Hutchcraft: style guru

SLICK LOCKS
Theo says he's a fan of a strong-hold hair pomade called Sportin' Waves. Follow his instructions, get the look: "Smear a 50p piece-sized amount into your hair, and rub slowly."

DAPPER SUITS
The singer started wearing suits to foster respect when a pre-fame Hurts were on the dole. He has one rule: never wear double-breasted. "Whenever I try one on I look like I'm from the '80s. I look in the mirror and see Hall & Oates."

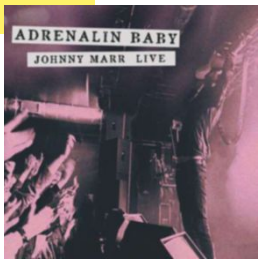
PROPER SHOES
"I don't like flip-flops. I'm happy with them in the right environment but walking down the streets of London in a flip-flop I just don't understand. It's repulsive."

Johnny Marr onstage at Cliffs Pavillion, Southend

Johnny Marr: live and loud

Ex-Smith proves his greatness on a spiky live album

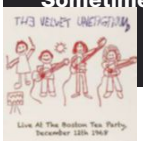
JOHNNY MARR
Adrenalin Baby
★★★★☆
INDIE LIVE LEGEND



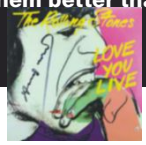
JOHNNY MARR has had a long and distinguished career since The Smiths split in 1987, but it's only since becoming a solo artist that he's really come face-to-face with his audience. The two albums released under his own name (2013's 'The Messenger' and last year's 'Playland') have sparked a late-career renaissance, and the energetic shows he's played in support of them have been a way for him to honour past glories whilst establishing himself as a force to be reckoned with in the present. 'Adrenalin Baby' is a live document of that, and a pretty engaging one. The Smiths songs, of course, will be of particular interest and his distinctive guitar work is as much a mark of their greatness as Morrissey's wit. An angular punk-funk version of Electronic's 'Getting Away With It' underlines Marr's greatest strength, whether as a sideman or a focal point: his chameleonic adaptability. **Barry Nicolson**

Johnny Marr's favourite live albums

"Sometimes I like them better than the original records"



THE VELVET UNDERGROUND
'Live At The Boston Tea Party' *(1968)*
This mega-loud 12-song set is regarded as one of the Velvets' best-ever bootlegs from one of their favourite venues.



THE ROLLING STONES
'Love You Live' *(1977)*
The Stones' second live album features sleeve art by Andy Warhol, which Jagger then scrawled all over, much to the late Pop Art pioneer's chagrin.

RAMONES
'It's Alive' *(1979)*
Recorded in London on New Year's Eve 1977, Ramones' first live album is a riot. The gig ended in one, too – 10 rows of chairs were thrown at the stage after the show.

Johnny Marr

The guitar ace speaks

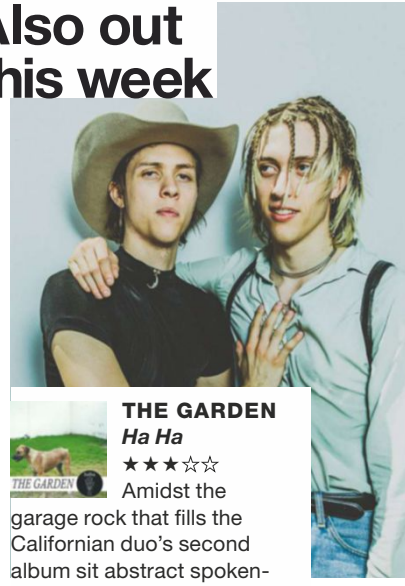
Why do a live album?
"I got asked so many times. And also because people wanted to hear my versions of the old songs – not just The Smiths ones, but also 'Getting Away With It' – without it being shot on some crappy phone off YouTube."

Any more projects up your sleeve at the moment?
"Writing the book, and the next solo record as well. I've also got a new movie coming out called *Freehold* that I've done with Hans Zimmer."

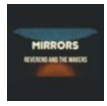
How's the autobiography coming along?
"I've written about a third of it. My life spans everything from the Beat movement to the digital age. My generation birthed indie, and my contemporaries aren't really around any more."

Are you gonna read Morrissey's novel?
"I don't think so, no. I always have the same answer to that question – I've got so much other stuff I'm really looking forward to reading, so... nah."

Also out this week



THE GARDEN
Ha Ha
★★★☆☆
Amidst the garage rock that fills the Californian duo's second album sit abstract spoken-word pieces, surrealist lyrics and a whole heap of perverse genre-jumping.



REVEREND & THE MAKERS
Mirrors
★★★☆☆
Fifth album 'Mirrors' is as inspired as Reverend & The Makers have ever been: a 35-minute, 14-song hurtle through every idea in frontman Jon McClure's outsized cranium.

PROTOMARTYR
The Agent Intellect
★★★★☆
With shades of The Cure in Greg Ahee's guitars, and Mark E Smith in Joe Casey's vocals, the Detroit quartet's third album makes post-punk feel like the purest rock'n'roll.

THE ENEMY
It's Automatic
★★★☆☆
After 2012's turgid 'Streets In The Sky', the Coventry trio return with more reverb, less grit. Sometimes ham-fisted, always heartfelt.

ALEX G
Beach Music
★★★☆☆
22-year-old Alex Gianniscoli's dreamy folk has been likened to Elliott Smith. The frayed guitars that fill 'Beach Music' – his seventh – ensure the comparisons won't stop any time soon.

Read the full reviews of these and many more albums on NME.com

WORDS: BARRY NICOLSON, NOEL GARDNER, JOHN CALVERT, MATTHEW HORTON
PHOTOS: NEIL KRUG, TOM OXLEY, ED MILES, CORBIS, POONEH GHANA, JORDAN HUGHES

Joseph Gordon-Levitt in *The Walk*

Don't look down

Joseph Gordon-Levitt walks a tightrope between New York's Twin Towers, but this vertigo-inducing movie doesn't always hit the heights

THE WALK
12A *Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ben Kingsley, Charlotte Le Bon*

★★★☆☆

ACTION VERTIGO SKYSCRAPERS

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF A film has to be great for it to be worth watching? *The Walk*, Robert Zemeckis' dramatised account of Philippe Petit's lunatic mission to tightrope walk between New York's Twin Towers, is perhaps 25 per cent terrific, tops. Yet those 30-odd minutes are so good, they just nullify all the other meandering, irritating minutes around them.

If you've already seen *Man On Wire*, 2008's Oscar-winning documentary about Petit, then there's little here to demand another two hours of your time.

Petit was an exceedingly self-confident street performer, who in 1974 read about the construction of two 415-metre towers in Manhattan. He decided he had to walk between them, even if it might land him in jail, because this is the sort of thing Petit thinks.

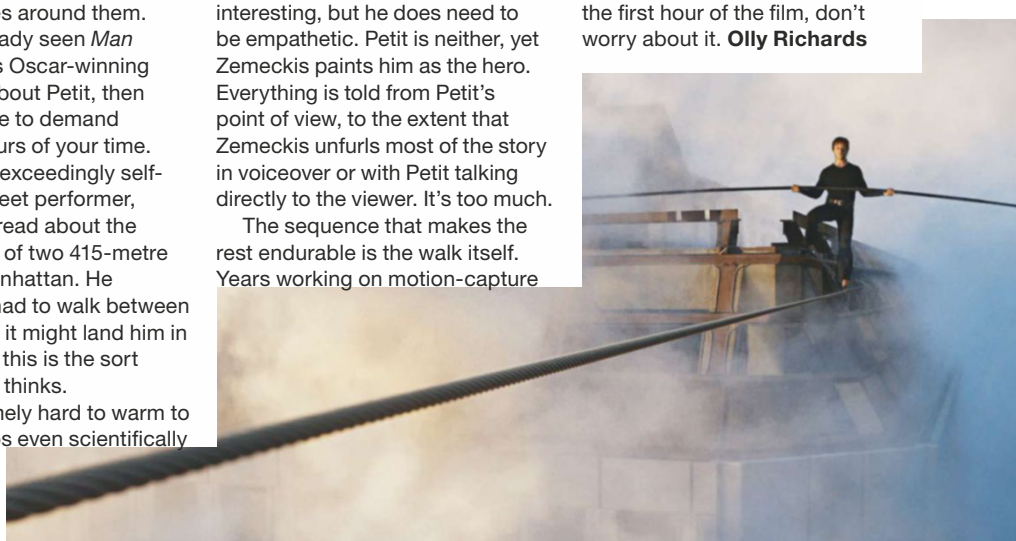
It's extremely hard to warm to Petit, perhaps even scientifically impossible. Played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt with boundless enthusiasm and My First French Accent, Petit is so arrogant, so bullying, so utterly convinced that his desires must be indulged, that you're less likely to root for him to succeed than to slip and crack something. A lead character doesn't need to be likeable to be interesting, but he does need to be empathetic. Petit is neither, yet Zemeckis paints him as the hero. Everything is told from Petit's point of view, to the extent that Zemeckis unfurls most of the story in voiceover or with Petit talking directly to the viewer. It's too much.

The sequence that makes the rest endurable is the walk itself. Years working on motion-capture films (*Beowulf*, *A Christmas Carol*) as well as his instinctive action eye in films like *Back To The Future* or *Flight*, have given Zemeckis a faultless instinct for staging spectacle. The very-high-wire sequence is genuinely gasp-inducing. See it in 3D on the largest screen available. But if you arrive late and miss the first hour of the film, don't worry about it. **Olly Richards**

FOR FANS OF

EVEREST

OCEAN'S 13



Doc 'n' load

Two more films inspired by documentaries

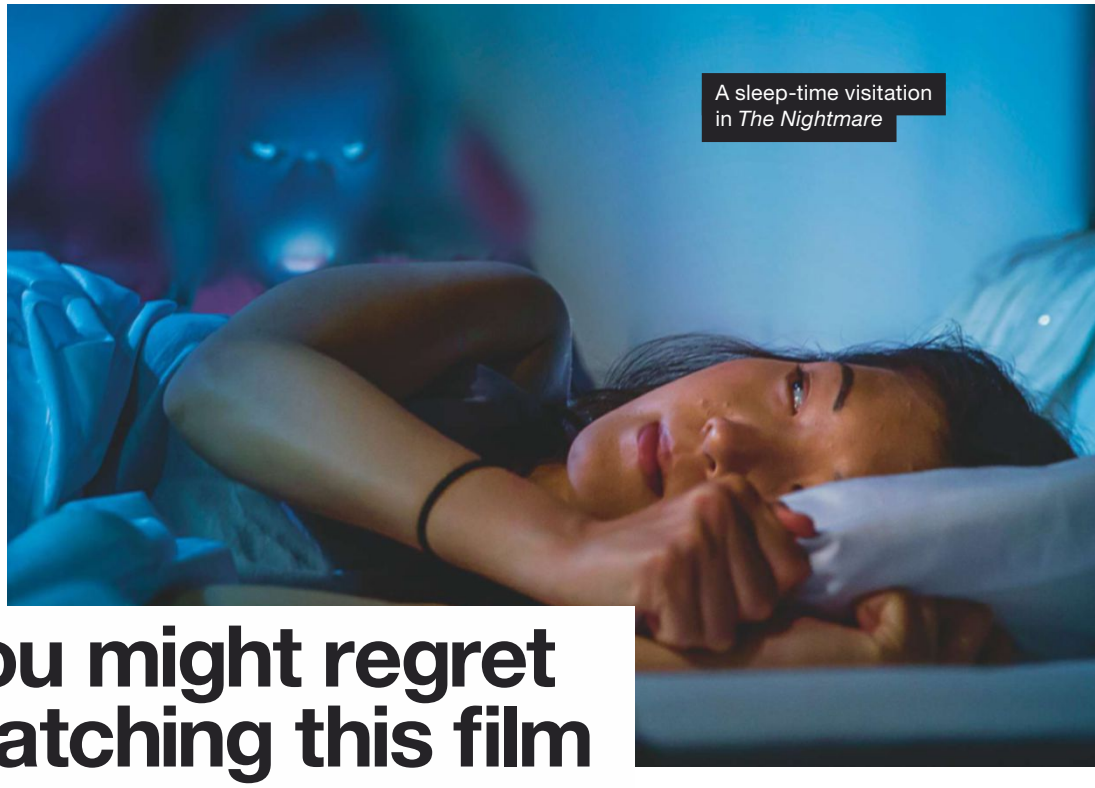
GREY GARDENS
The inspiration: *Grey Gardens (1975)*

Jessica Lange and Drew Barrymore play eccentric mother and daughter Big Edie and Little Edie, relatives of Jackie Kennedy who lived in oddly fabulous squalor in New York's Hamptons. The 2009 film was based on a 1975 Maysles brothers doc about them.

RESCUE DAWN
The inspiration: *Little Dieter Needs To Fly (1997)*

In 2009, Werner Herzog adapted his own 1997 documentary into a movie, recounting the experience of a pilot who was captured by the Vietcong in the Vietnam War. *Rescue Dawn* casts Christian Bale in the lead role of Dieter Dengler.

CORBIS



A sleep-time visitation in *The Nightmare*

You might regret watching this film

An unsettling look at the sleep paralysis phenonemon

THE NIGHTMARE
15 ***Yatoya Toy, Siegfried Peters***
★★★☆☆
REALITY SLEEP FEAR

THERE'S A SCENE IN THIS strange part-documentary, part-schlocky dramatised recreation in which one of its eight subjects – afflicted as all the rest are by bed-wettingly terrifying sleep-time visitations from shadow men, hags and demonic cats – reveals something truly horrifying.

People who hear about these dreams, he says, tend to be afflicted by them in the future. This, you think, is not what I signed up for. Directed by Rodney Ascher, *The Nightmare* deals with sleep paralysis, in which the sufferer spends their nights semi-conscious, rendered immobile and subjected to untold horrors.

The creepy thing: these dreams have been reported in freakily similar ways by otherwise unconnected people around the world for centuries, from the opening sensation of static electricity to the appearance of recurring characters like the merciless 'hat man'.

The film's fatal flaw: director Ascher is a sufferer and a believer, so he forgets to be a journalist too – no medical experts are consulted, no scientific explanations are proffered. Instead, the subjects are allowed to ramble on about their dreams, something which, if a friend did it, would soon have your eyes rolling back in their sockets.

Except you don't want to go to sleep any more, because, y'know… **Dan Stubbs**

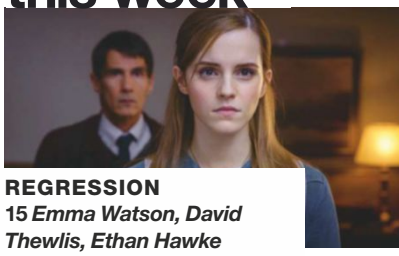
Bedtime stories

Sleep paralysis down the ages

HENRY FUSELI'S *THE NIGHTMARE* (1781)
This painting of a demon sitting on a woman's chest shows how far back reports of this syndrome go.

***A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET* (1984)**
A killer stalking teens in their dreams? Wes Craven's horror franchise is eerily familiar.

Also out this week



REGRESSION
15 ***Emma Watson, David Thewlis, Ethan Hawke***
★★★☆☆
A man admits to sexually abusing his 17-year-old daughter (played intensely by Emma Watson), but claims to have no recollection of it. Grim but compelling drama.

SUFFRAGETTE
12A ***Carey Mulligan, Meryl Streep, Helena Bonham Carter***
★★★★☆
Carey Mulligan is superb as Maud, a washerwoman and doting wife who is drawn into one of the defining political upheavals of the 20th century.

Full reviews of these and many more films are on NME.com

Claire Danes in *Homeland*

Home truths

Sometimes awesome, occasionally rubbish – *Homeland* is back. Series five has some questions to answer

HOMELAND
Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm
Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Rupert Friend
SPIES TERRORISM POLITICS

WHEN IT DEBUTED IN 2011, labyrinthine terrorism drama *Homeland* had a plot that gripped like flypaper. Starring Claire Danes as CIA agent Carrie Mathison, Series One focused on her investigation into whether Gulf War hero Nicholas Brody (Damian Lewis) – recently released after being incarcerated in Afghanistan – had been turned by al-Qaeda. Subsequent series have varied wildly in quality, with some episodes offering tense high-octane excitement and others being utter bobbins. What should we expect of series five?

Is Saul Berenson rejoining the CIA?

At the end of series four, it looked like smooth-operating agency old hand Saul Berenson (Mandy Patinkin) would become CIA director. Series five picks up events two years later, when Saul's back at the agency but has been passed over for the top job.

Is Carrie Mathison on the run?

Series five opens with Carrie living in Berlin, working as the head of security for a billionaire philanthropist, and settling into domestic bliss. But the action-packed trailer suggests trouble is afoot, with Carrie on the run – possibly from the people she trusts the most.

Are Carrie and Saul still rowing?

Their relationship was frosty by series four's end, after Saul betrayed Carrie by forming an alliance with treacherous black ops specialist Dar Adal (F Murray Abraham). Their paths cross again when a CIA cock-up reveals American surveillance of German citizens (which echoes WikiLeaks' 2013 claim that the US tapped Chancellor Angela Merkel's phone). Patch up ahoy?

Are Carrie and Peter Quinn a couple?

Carrie and co-worker Peter Quinn (Rupert Friend) shared a lingering kiss in series four before he promptly bolted to Syria. We rejoin him in series five, down the rabbit hole as an assassin.

Is *Homeland* actually good again, then?

Homeland would have probably worked better as a one-off, saving us all from series two and three. Series four was better though, because it built stories around news headlines. Series five will do similar, and touch on Syrian unrest, Isis terror, the refugee crisis and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Early indications suggest the show is ageing with grace. If *Homeland* were a band, it would be The Strokes: it'll never equal the perfect first album, but is still capable of tossing out a few bangers. **Gary Ryan**

For more on *Homeland* visit NME.com

FOR FANS OF

Homeland's best and worst bits

There have been plenty of both over the last four years

HOME RUNS

CARRIE'S TEA SLIP
Series 1, Episode 7
Carrie accidentally lets slip she knows Brody's preferred brand of tea – and Brody realises she must be a spy.

BRODY BOWS OUT
Series 3, Episode 12
Carrie helps Brody escape, tells him that she's pregnant with his baby, and then watches his demise.

MUST SPY HARDER

MURDERED BY PACEMAKER
Series 2, Episode 10
Terrorist Abu Nazir hacks into the US Vice President's pacemaker to kill him.

DANA BRODY
Series 1, 2 & 3
The plot-sapping teenage daughter of Brody proved so unpopular she hasn't been seen since series three.

TWENTIETH CENTURY FILM CORPORATION, CHANNEL 4, ITV

Reality bites

***Plebs* actor Ryan Sampson on the spoof reality shows he cooked up for his new prank TV series**

GLITCHY
Tuesday, ITV2, 10pm
Ryan Sampson
COMEDY PRANKS PUNCHING

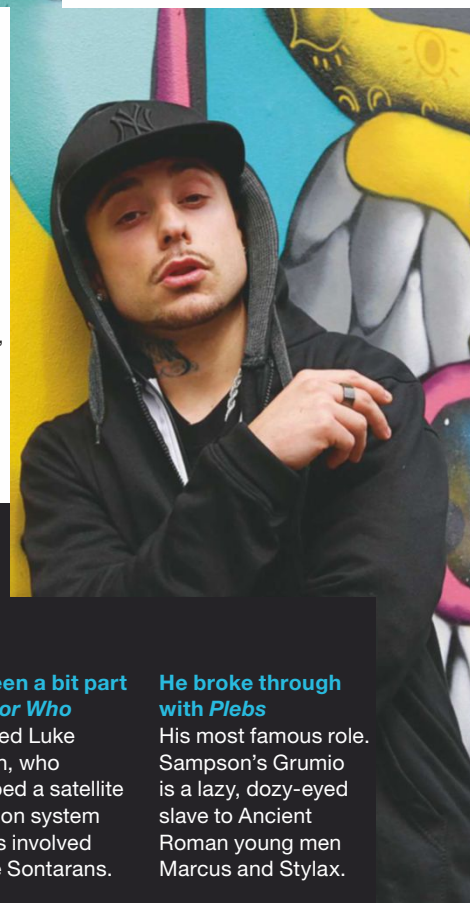
NAME: *Britain And Ireland's Next Top Hand Model*
CONCEPT: "It's a take on *America's Next Top Model*, and those insane monsters like Tyra Banks. I play Antonio Du-Prez, the acerbic bitchy host. All of his challenges in the show are aimed at revenge towards his unloving mother. The series is Ali G-style character comedy, giving it bite by putting them among real people."

NAME: *Judd Zuckerman On The Prowl*
CONCEPT: "Judd's a washed-up '90s boyband member. You slowly become aware he's borderline alcoholic and living off his past glory. For one last shot, he's come to England to show 'quaint' British guys how to learn LA charm."

NAME: *Andreas Kauffman's Workplace Revolution*
CONCEPT: "I love Mary Portas and Alex Polizzi – anything with a spiky woman going into people's businesses and making them cry, I lap up. Andreas Kauffman is this German designer determined to impose 'my truth and vision on your vurkplace', who turns a café in Dorset into a Berlin sex dungeon."

NAME: *Darren Packer*
CONCEPT: "When Bear Grylls pulls out of a TV show, and Ray Mears, and Chris Packham, you get down to Darren Packer – an Alan Titchmarsh figure trying to revive his ailing TV career. He's going through a big divorce and he's having a massive emotional breakdown. The crux is: what if the man at the centre of a survival show doesn't want to survive?"

NAME: *Date My Daughter*
CONCEPT: "In the first production meeting we had, I said, 'I want to fairly believably be a middle-aged Russian oligarch's wife'. Everyone laughed and the conversation moved on, before I insisted, 'No really.'"



Who is Ryan Sampson?

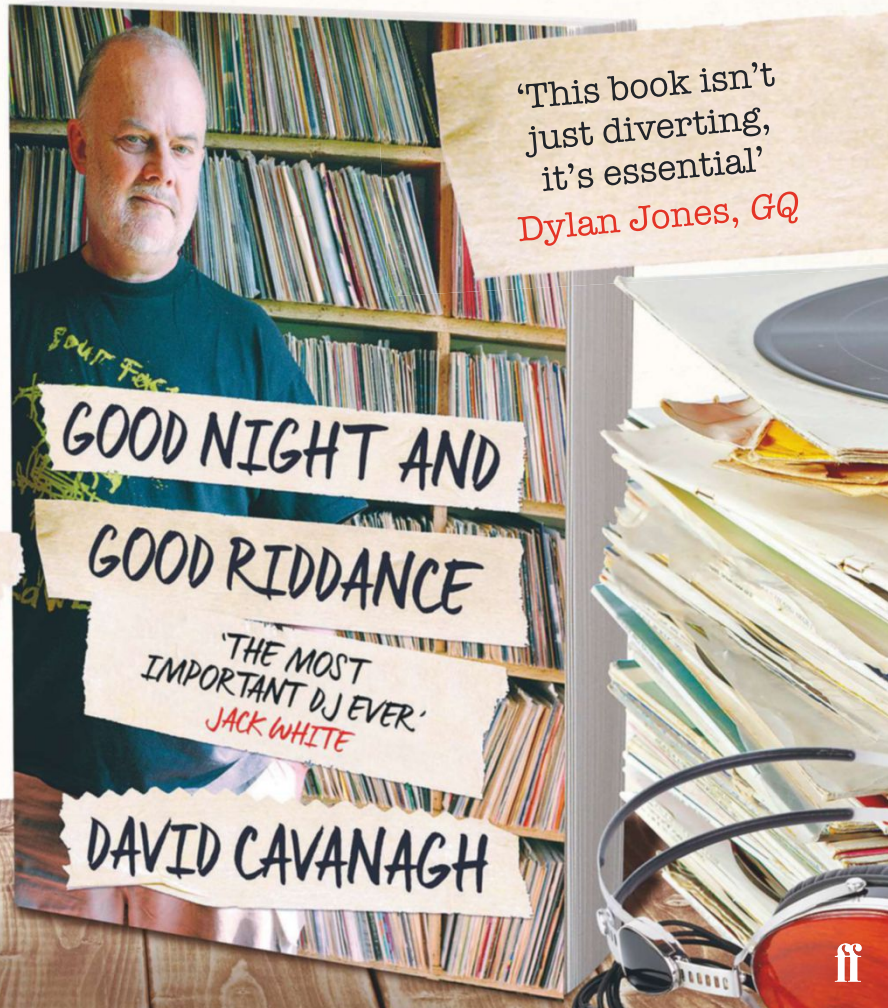
And what the hell is his story

He cut his teeth in *The Work Experience*
In this sitcom-cum-mockumentary, he played Shussi, an eye-makeup wearing PR worker.

He's been a bit part in *Doctor Who*
He played Luke Rattigan, who developed a satellite navigation system and was involved with the Sontarans.

He broke through with *Plebs*
His most famous role. Sampson's Grumio is a lazy, dozy-eyed slave to Ancient Roman young men Marcus and Stylax.

HOW THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF JOHN PEEL HELPED TO SHAPE MODERN LIFE



FROM DAVID BOWIE TO PJ HARVEY, THE BEST OF JOHN PEEL 1967 - 2004

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Rock on

The riff-along classic gets a new lease of life

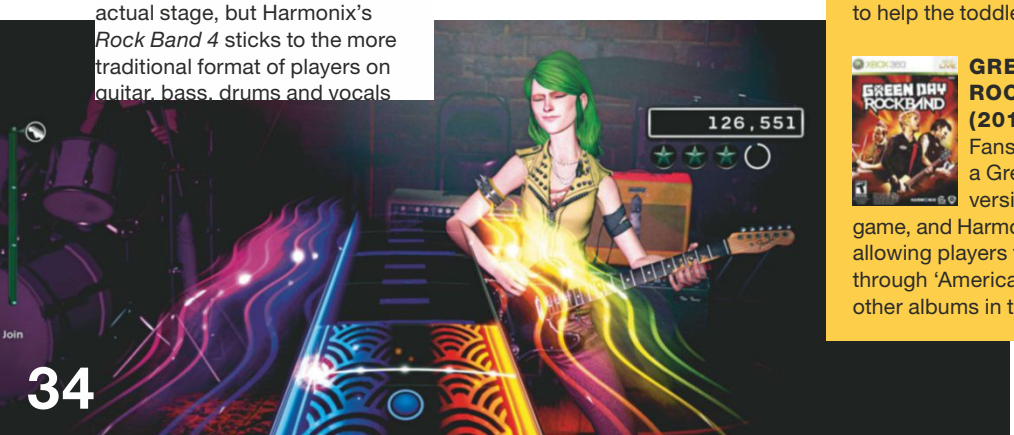
ROCK BAND 4
Harmonix
★★★☆☆
RHYTHM GAME | BE IN THE BAND

AND SO BEGINS THE RHYTHM game revival. Following the huge success of *Guitar Hero* in 2006 and the subsequent full-band equivalent *Rock Band*, the market quickly became oversaturated with sequels, specialist editions and ridiculous spin-offs – remember *DJ Hero*? In 2009 alone there were 15 releases under the two franchise banners. It got so bad there were probably serious discussions about the possibility of *Rock Band: The Twang*. But the bubble burst, sales plummeted and only now, five years after the last major titles, do developers feel that the hunger for hammering plastic instruments like a finger ninja has returned.

Guitar Hero Live, due in a fortnight, evolves the genre using live footage of the player on an actual stage, but Harmonix's *Rock Band 4* sticks to the more traditional format of players on guitar, bass, drums and vocals beat-matching along to a cartoon on-screen band.

Advancements are pretty minimal, but intuitive – you can now play full shows as part of a rags-to-Reading Festival career story, with set lists chosen smoothly on the fly rather than arguing over fiddly menus. With over 60 songs built in – including U2's first *Rock Band* appearance – and 1,500 due online including almost everything from the *Rock Band* series thus far (bar the milestone *Beatles* edition), it feels like a comprehensive throwback rather than a bold leap forward.

But even when you're dragged out of the game by the sight of the white-haired country and western video frontman singing with the wobbly voice of Pat Benatar, it's still the most immersive 'party' game. There's no sitting around watching your mates cock up 'Uptown Funk' – a new Freestyle Solo option turns any unpractised guitar bozo into Kirk Hammett in seconds and playing the drum pads basically *is* drumming. Rock on… **Mark Beaumont**



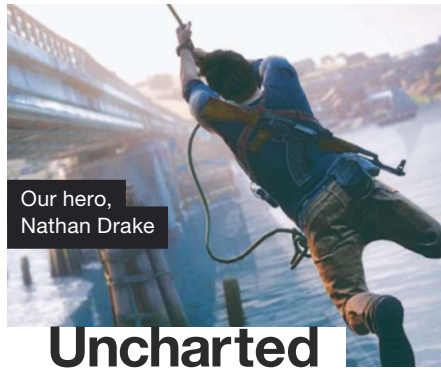
We're with the band

The three biggest *Rock Band* offshoots

THE BEATLES: ROCK BAND (2009)
The first of the band-centric *Rock Band* games allowed you to be in the best band in history. It featured graphics so psychedelic Paul McCartney used them as his actual on-tour visuals in 2009.

LEGO ROCK BAND (2009)
This 'family-friendly' version of *Rock Band* came with super-easy and short song modes to help the toddlers join in.

GREEN DAY: ROCK BAND (2010)
Fans demanded a Green Day version of the game, and Harmonix delivered, allowing players to blast through 'American Idiot' and other albums in their entirety.


Our hero, Nathan Drake

Uncharted 4: what we know so far

Anticipation is high for the fourth chapter in the story of our globetrotting treasure hunter. Due next March, here's what we know about *A Thief's End*

It's exotic, again
Having already visited the mythical cities of El Dorado, Shambhala and Atlantis Of The Sands, *Uncharted*'s hero Nathan Drake is lured from retirement to track down a lost pirate colony, following his ancestor Sir Francis Drake's route around Africa and Madagascar.

It's been totally reworked
Eight months' work and many storylines were scrapped when development was taken over by directors Neil Druckmann and Bruce Straley, the team behind *The Last Of Us*. They promise it "will test Drake's physical limits, his resolve, and his relationships".

It's like playing a movie
Resembling *The Last Of Us* on crystal meth, gameplay trailers reveal an action film you can control, as Nate shoots his way through African markets or speeds over ramshackle rooftops in a four-by-four.

It's funny
Deranged by the loneliness of global adventuring, Drake chats to skeletons and mutters constant wise-cracks to himself as though *he knows we're watching*…

Full reviews of these and many more games are on NME.com

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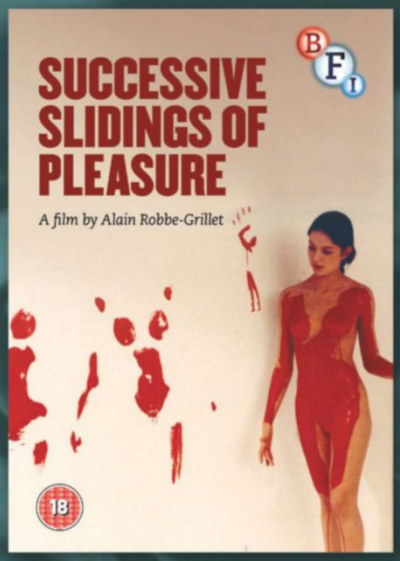

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Under the RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

From left: Paeris, Gus, Kristian and Jack at the Tuff Gong studio

"It's all about the feel of the song"

DAN KENDALL JENN FIVE, DEAN CHALKLEY, DANIEL TOPETE

The Magic Gang

We join the Brighton indie band as they record with reggae legends Sly & Robbie in Kingston, Jamaica

The Magic Gang have barely got their instruments set up in Bob Marley's legendary old studio Tuff Gong when their surprise guest producers arrive: Sly & Robbie. The most famous rhythm section in reggae history, the pair have previously worked with everyone from Jimmy Cliff and Peter Tosh to Bob Dylan and Chaka Demus & Pliers. "Don't worry," mutters Magic Gang singer and guitarist Kristian Smith after their superfluous introduction. "We know who you are."

"This has been the most surreal experience of my life," says Smith later, after recording two tracks for a Converse Rubber Tracks session: 'Happy Birthday' and 'Wanna Get To Know Ya'. "They worked us hard," he adds. "One of us was flat during a group vocal and Robbie came in and stood next to us while we were singing. He rooted out the culprit."

"I love the way Sly & Robbie work," adds bassist Gus Taylor. "Rather than make a perfect-sounding piece of music, it's all about the feel of the song."

As for the pair behind the desk, Sly Dunbar said he understood how excited the band were to be recording at Tuff Gong.

"When I was 14, this is where I made my first recording on The Upsetters' 'Night Doctor'," he revealed. "It's a special place to cut a record."

Robbie Shakespeare said his only advice to the band was to: "Keep doing what they're doing and do everything with attitude." He added: "They're on the right track. They're making magic music." **Kevin EG Perry**

For more on The Magic Gang go to NME.com

FOR FANS OF

Best track

No Fun

A blissful slice of Teenage Fanclub gone shoegaze

Details

LISTEN Find a trio of tunes – 'Shallow', 'She Won't Ghost', 'Alright' – on their SoundCloud.

FACT The band chose to visit Tuff Gong for a Converse Rubber Tracks global studio takeover session because it seemed "unimaginable". "We didn't expect to ever be able to go to Jamaica and work in such an amazing place," says Jack. "We chose it as a pipe dream."

SOCIAL @_TheMagicGang

SEE THEM LIVE
Supporting Swim Deep: Leadmill, Sheffield (October 10), Riverside, Newcastle (11), Oran Mor, Glasgow (12), Duchess, York (14), Academy 2, Liverpool (15), Ritz, Manchester (16), The Institute, Birmingham (17), The Junction, Cambridge (18), Trinity, Bristol (20), Concorde, Brighton (21)

live

THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT GIGS THIS WEEK

1
PJ Harvey

Friday 9 & Saturday 10
Royal Festival Hall, London

WHO: Polly Jean Harvey – aka The Peej. Revered musician, poet, living gallery exhibit, art rock chameleon, medieval commenter on modern warfare, erstwhile muse of Nick Cave and the only person to receive the Mercury Prize twice.
WHY: The gigs are part of London Literature Festival and will feature poetry readings, as well as a host of new songs performed by Harvey.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Seamus Murphy, who'll show a series of images and short films.
TICKETS: Sold out, but going from £59 upwards on secondary ticketing sites

2
Rudimental

Tuesday 13 Corn Exchange, Edinburgh
Wednesday 14 Empress Ballroom, Blackpool

WHO: Hackney drum'n'bass quartet who bagged guest spots from Ella Eyre, Lianne La Havas, Ed Sheeran and the late Bobby Womack on their second album 'We The Generation'. They were literally struck by lightning at Glastonbury 2014.
WHY: Their hi-octane shows are so energetic they're essentially rave workout sessions. Feel the burn.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: Blackpool £32.45 from NME.com/tickets; Edinburgh £32.45 from ticketweb.co.uk

RICHARD JOHNSON, GETTY, CORBIS, DAN DENNISON, WUNMI ONIBUDO

3
Palma Violets

Saturday 10
Owl Sanctuary, Norwich

WHO: Rowdy Lambeth riot rockers whose second album 'Danger In The Club', released earlier this year, was virtually a warning for anyone braving their notoriously wild and ramshackle gigs.

WHY: Palmas could make a lucrative sideline in demolishing small venues. Expect stage invasions, roar-along tunes and a tankerload of sweat.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Sheffield garage-punks Best Friends.
TICKETS: Sold out

4
Miguel

Tuesday 13 O2 Academy Brixton, London
Thursday 15 O2 Academy, Birmingham

WHO: Slinky R&B star, Kendrick Lamar and Lenny Kravitz collaborator and fan of fringed white leather jackets.

WHY: New album 'Wildheart' sees Miguel broadening his musical horizons and adding psych-rock elements to his sound, so his shows will be slightly more eclectic than your average R&B warbler.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: £29.15-£33.55 from NME.com/tickets

5
Jamie xx

Thursday 15 O2 Academy Brixton, London

WHO: One third of moody minimalist soul pioneers The xx, production whizkid Jamie Smith released his long-awaited debut solo album 'In Colour' earlier this year, to the delight of jam jar cocktail drinkers everywhere.

WHY: He admirably steers clear of EDM's penchant for live show gimmicks, letting the music spin the magic.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: No details yet.
TICKETS: Sold out, but some tickets are available on secondary ticketing sites from £82

6
Years & Years

Friday 9
O2 Academy, Birmingham
Saturday 10 UEA, Norwich
Sunday 11
Rock City, Nottingham
Tuesday 13
O2 Academy, Sheffield
Wednesday 14
O2 Academy, Leeds

WHO: London trio fronted by ex-*Skins* actor Olly Alexander, who topped the BBC Sound Of 2015 poll and the charts.
WHY: Their debut album 'Communion' is full of tropical hooks that might make summer last a little way into October.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Tove Stryke and Oscar Key Sung.
TICKETS: Sold out, but on secondary sites from £39

7
Hot Chip

Tuesday 13 O2 Academy, Bristol
Wednesday 14 Pyramids Centre, Portsmouth

WHO: Intellectual electronic pop stalwarts, currently being hailed as synth-pop godheads after this year's sixth album 'Why Make Sense?'.

WHY: 'Over And Over', 'Ready For The Floor'… you're jiggling in your seat already. A London-centric millennial Pet Shop Boys, basically.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Multi-instrumentalist and Domino signing, Georgia.
TICKETS: Portsmouth £22.55 from NME.com/tickets; Bristol sold out, available from £25 on secondary ticketing sites

8
Major Lazer

Wednesday 14 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Thursday 15 O2 Academy, Glasgow

WHO: Diplo's dancehall gang keen to encourage you to twerk like no-one's watching.

WHY: As well as merging dancehall, EDM, reggae and house in their sound, they employ dancers to grind their buttocks in volunteers' faces.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Elliphant; Mumdance & Novelist
TICKETS: Birmingham £25.30 from NME.com/tickets; Glasgow sold out, but on secondary sites from £65

9
Spector

Tuesday 13 Thekla, Bristol
Wednesday 14 The Library, Birmingham
Thursday 15 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

WHO: Self-deprecating, witty indie boys making glimmering hook-filled pop songs. Absolutely nothing to do with the new James Bond film or the imprisoned producer, Phil.

WHY: The rich, polished songs from their second album, 'Moth Boys', will make the small venues they're playing seem like mini-stadiums.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: New band of the moment Spring King.
TICKETS: £13.75-£14 from NME.com/tickets

10
Swim Deep

Saturday 10 Leadmill, Sheffield
Sunday 11 Riverside, Newcastle
Monday 12 Oran Mor, Glasgow
Wednesday 14 The Duchess, York
Thursday 15 O2 Academy, Liverpool

WHO: Birmingham band whose second album 'Mothers' has been compared to Primal Scream's 'Screamadelica'.
WHY: Their new songs are euphoric psych maelstroms.
WHO'S SUPPORTING: Brighton's The Magic Gang, Glasgow's Catholic Action.
TICKETS: £13.20-£13.50 from NME.com/tickets; Glasgow £14.25 from ticketmaster.co.uk

Best of the rest

Du Blonde play Manchester's Deaf Institute on **Sunday, Oct 11**

All We Are
Wed 14 Scala, London

Amateur Best
Thu 15 The Waiting Room, London

Arcane Roots
Thu 15 Dingwalls, London

Bondax
Sat 10 KOKO, London
Tue 13 University, Sheffield

Bullet For My Valentine
Fri 9 Barbican, York
Sat 10 Music Hall, Aberdeen
Sun 11 Alhambra Theatre, Dunfermline
Tue 13 Empire, Middlesbrough
Wed 14 Sands Centre, Carlisle

Chastity Belt
Thu 15 The Victoria, London

Crushed Beaks
Mon 12 Start The Bus, Bristol

Darwin Deez
Sun 11 Boileroom, Guildford
Mon 12 Thekla, Bristol
Tue 13 Sound Control, Manchester
Thu 15 Limelight, Belfast

Dave McCabe & The Ramifications
Wed 14 Cluny, Newcastle
Thu 15 King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Glasgow

Eaves
Wed 14 Deeside Inn, Ballater
Thu 15 Drouthy Cobbler, Elgin

Editors
Fri 9 Limelight, Belfast
Mon 12 Colston Hall, Bristol
Tue 13 Eventim Apollo, London
Thu 15 Pyramid Centre, Portsmouth

The Fall
Fri 9 The Tivoli, Buckley

Girls Names
Thu 15 Shipping Forecast, Liverpool

Half Man Half Biscuit
Thu 15 The Forum, London

James Bay
Fri 9 Oasis Centre, Swindon
Sun 11 Ulster Hall, Belfast

Johnny Marr
Sun 11 University, Newcastle
Tue 13 Ironworks, Inverness
Wed 14 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh

Kwabs
Sun 11 Academy, Manchester
Mon 12 The Institute, Birmingham
Tue 13 O2 Academy, Oxford

Leftfield
Fri 9 The Institute, Birmingham
Sat 10 Corn Exchange, Edinburgh
Sun 11 Music Hall, Aberdeen
Wed 14 Roundhouse, London

READERS' PICK

April, *22, from Bromley @AprilArabella*

Peace
Fri 9 O2 Academy Brixton, London
"I've only ever seen them at festivals so I'm super excited to go to their gig!"

Lethal Bizzle
Fri 9 Concorde 2, Brighton

LoneLady
Sat 10 Patterns, Brighton

Mallory Knox
Fri 9 The Roundhouse, London

Melvins
Sat 10 Electric Ballroom, London

Menswear
Sat 10 The Garage, London

Odesza
Wed 14 KOKO, London

One Direction
Sat 10, Sun 11 & Mon 12 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

Peace
Fri 9 O2 Academy Brixton, London
Sat 10 Civic, Wolverhampton

Petite Meller
Thu 15 Heaven, London

Rae Morris
Fri 9 The Leadmill, Sheffield
Sat 10 The Ritz, Manchester
Sun 11 The Institute, Birmingham
Tue 13 Concorde 2, Brighton
Wed 14 O2 Academy, Bristol
Thu 15 Engine Rooms, Southampton

Rhodes
Fri 9 KOKO, London
Sat 10 Gorilla, Manchester
Sun 11 The Rainbow, Birmingham

Ride
Sun 11 O2 Academy, Leeds
Mon 12 UEA, Norwich
Wed 14 O2 Academy Brixton, London
Thu 15 O2 Academy, Liverpool

Rockaway Beach Festival
Fri 9-Sun 11 Butlins, Bognor Regis

Sales
Thu 15 Cavern Club, Exeter

Sleaford Mods
Fri 9 Rock City, Nottingham
Wed 14 La Belle Angele, Edinburgh
Thu 15 Tunnels, Aberdeen

Speedy Ortiz
Thu 15 The Haunt, Brighton

Spring King
Sun 11 Headrow House, Leeds

Squeeze
Fri 9 St David's Hall, Cardiff
Sat 10 Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-On-Sea
Mon 12 Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
Tue 13 Pavilion, Bournemouth
Fri 15 Royal Albert Hall, London

The Vryll Society
Sat 10 Lennons, Southampton
Tue 13 Louisiana, Bristol
Wed 14 Sebright Arms, London
Thu 15 Cookie, Leicester

Young Guns
Wed 14 The Library, Leeds
Thu 15 Bucks New University SU, High Wycombe

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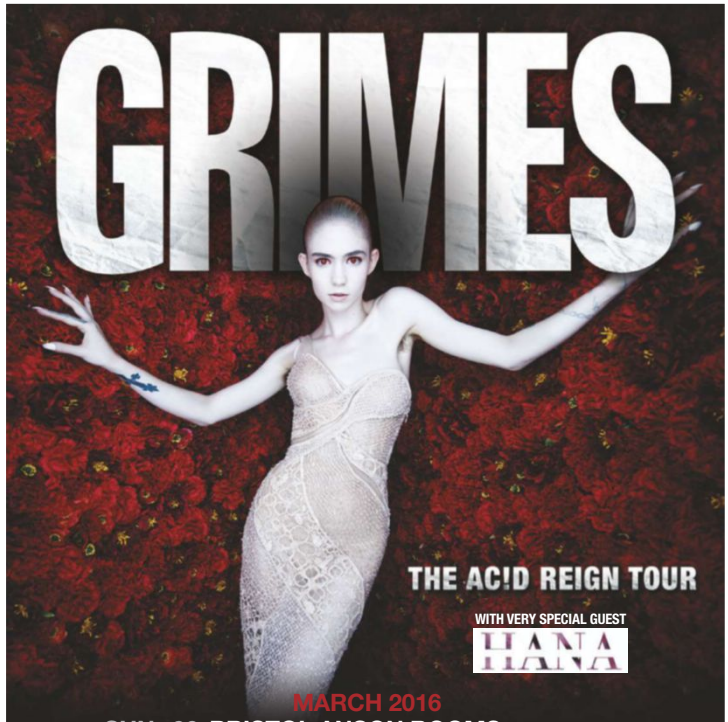

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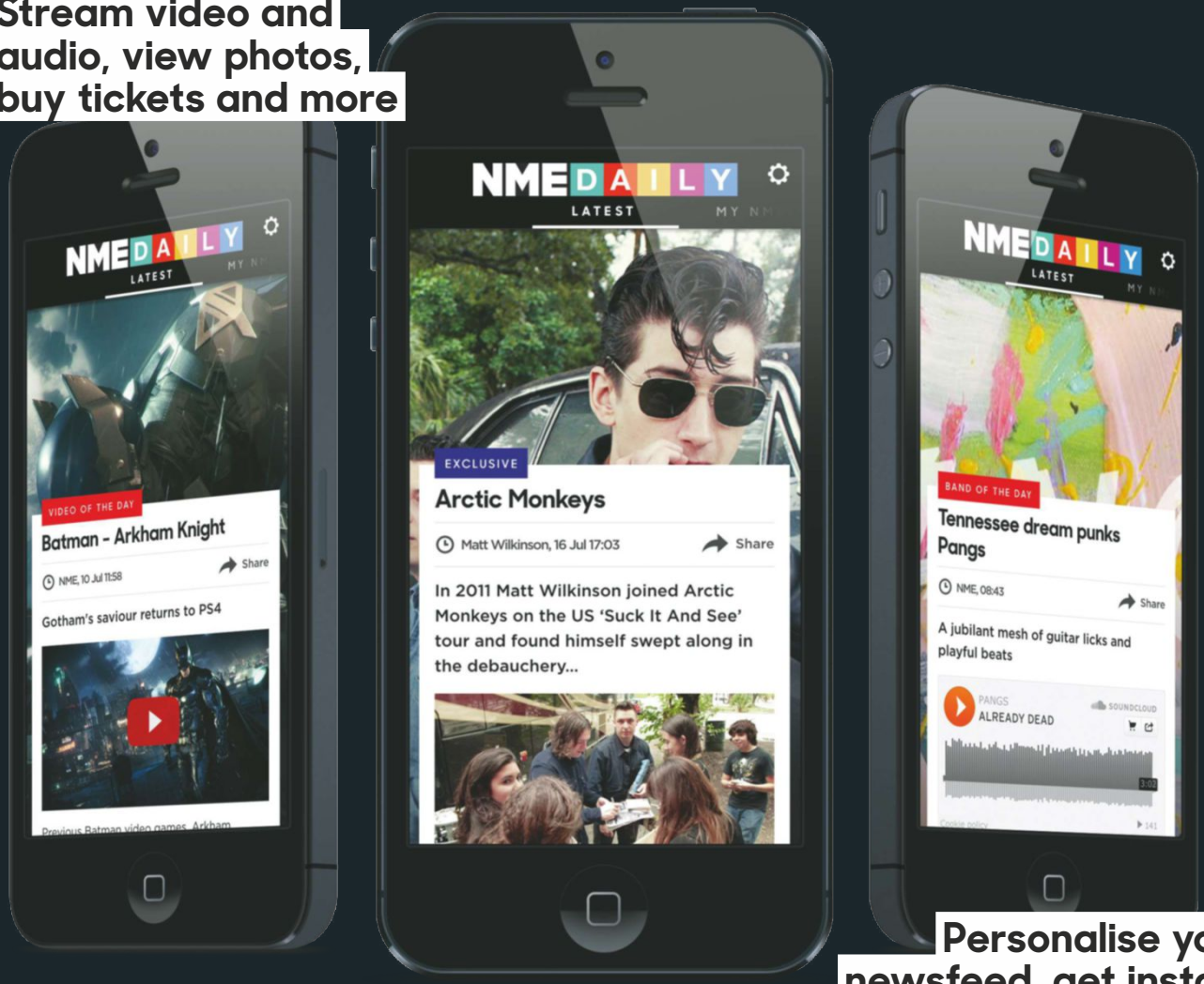

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Soundtrack of my life

Grace Jones

Bumper-bothering disco diva

The first song I fell in love with

BARRY WHITE'S LOVE UNLIMITED ORCHESTRA

Love's Theme

"It's a very sexy song, and the whole album is very, very sexy. In [my new autobiography] *I'll Never Write My Memoirs* I wrote about having an orgasm to it and weeping. I still weep!"

The first song I can remember hearing

JOE TEX

Skinny Legs And All

"I would have heard it at school in upstate New York. It's a song that they used to tease me with because I had skinny legs, but I still love the song. And I still have skinny legs and I still don't like them."

Find more Soundtracks at NME.com

The first album I ever bought

SANTANA

Abraxas

"It had 'Black Magic Woman' on it and this amazing cover, very acid trippy and very sexy. It was really quite a striking collage for the time and it's still a beautiful piece of art."

The song that made me want to make music

DIONNE WARWICK

Trains And Boats And Planes

"I was always moving, and that song was like going on a journey and going somewhere. It made me dream about travelling."

The song I no longer listen to

LADY GAGA

Poker Face

"It was just played so much. I would have worked with her if she came up with something that inspired me, but when she asked me the only idea she had was the actual idea of working with me."

The song that makes me want to dance

THE TRAMMPS

Disco Inferno

"'Disco Inferno' still drives me nuts; it's amazingly soulful and it's got the most amazing rhythms. '*Burn baby burn*' – I mean, come on! It sets the place on fire and you're jumping out of your clothes. Don't play it too often, or I won't have any clothes on me!"

The song I do at karaoke

JOHN LENNON

Imagine

"When I was doing my first auditions and asked to make my first record, that's the one track that I went in the studio to do. So if I was to do karaoke, I would be fine at doing that one."

The song I want played at my funeral

NOTHING THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS

"It hasn't been written yet! If anyone thinks they've written it then they can pass it on to my manager's office!"

The song I can't get out of my head

CAPLETON

Run Away (Extra Gun Riddim)

"It's a reggae track by a Jamaican singer. I don't know if it's new but I bought it on the beach in Jamaica, on a CD called 'Extra Gun Riddim'."

The song I wish I'd written

EDITH PIAF

La Vie En Rose

"All the songs I remade are the songs that I wish I'd written. I didn't hear the original before I covered it because I didn't want to be affected by Edith Piaf's way of singing it. It's really different, but the melodies are still there."

WASTE WORD

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK

JAY Z

millionaire rapper

October 3, 2009

"Money doesn't solve anything. It doesn't equate to happiness; you have to find your own happiness, whether you're rich or poor."

INTERVIEW: LISA WRIGHT. PICS: JEAN-PAUL GOUDE, CORBIS

PILOT

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